

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper

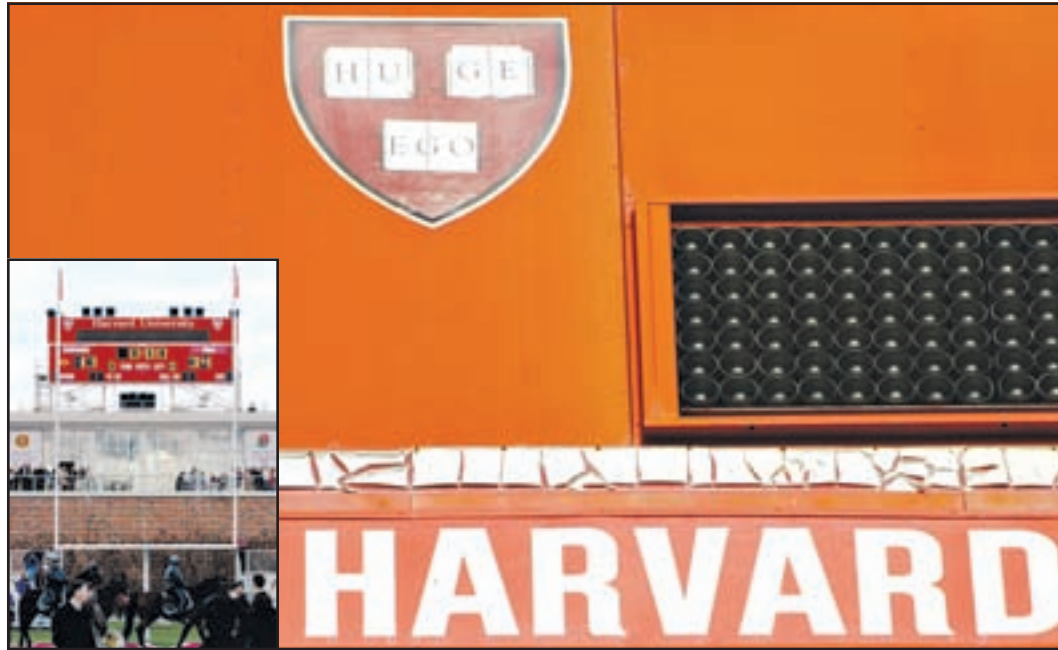


The Weather
Today: Sunny, humid, 88°F (31°C)
Tonight: Partly cloudy, 66°F (19°C)
Tomorrow: Sunny, 86°F (30°C)
Details, Page 2

Volume 126, Number 55

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, November 21, 2006



MIT hackers changed the Harvard motto "Veritas" to "HUGE EGO" on both sides of the Harvard score-board (seen in inset) for the Harvard-Yale football game on Saturday night. Harvard lost the game.

Petition Drafted For Institute Divestment

Sudanese Government Cited as "Genocidal"

By Marie Y. Thibault
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As an MIT Corporation advisory committee continues deliberating whether MIT should divest from Sudan or not, a petition supporting divestment is gathering energy around campus. A lecture planned for next week is expected to open and add to campus discussion about divestment.

The petition reads, "We, the undersigned, request the Massachusetts Institute of Technology divest from offending companies doing business with the genocidal government in Sudan immediately (no later than December 31st 2006)."

The petition's author, Kayvan Zainabadi G, said that the petition had 229 signatures on Nov. 9. As of last

night, the petition had garnered 343 signatures.

Zainabadi plans to present the petition to MIT Corporation's Advisory Committee for Shareholder Responsibility at their next meeting before bringing it before the Corporation's Executive Committee.

Graduate Student Council President Eric G. Weese G, also a member of the ACSR, said that the committee checked the number of signatures on the petition at its last meeting.

Zainabadi hopes that the ACSR will decide to divest and will choose a model of "targeted divestment" for the divestment, as was proposed by the Sudan Divestment Task Force.

Sudan, Page 16

Fire Alarms Triggered at Dorms, Prank Suspected

By Valery K. Brobbey
STAFF REPORTER

Fire alarms at Baker House, Burton-Conner and Simmons Hall were set off simultaneously early Friday morning by unidentified parties, forcing residents into the street. As a result, MIT may be fined by the city of Cambridge, though it has not been yet.

All three alarms were triggered from pull stations in the dormitories, not smoke detectors, according to MIT Police Captain David Carl-

son. The odd nature of the situation "leads us to believe they were deliberate acts," Associate Director of Housing Dennis Collins said, though MIT is unsure whether it was a prank or not.

Carlson said that at this time the MIT Police does not have a list of possible suspects. "To be honest, I don't know what the motivation might be," he said.

Carlson said that although three

Fire Alarms, Page 17

MIT Takes First Place, High Ranks in Puzzle Challenge

By Joyce Kwan
STAFF REPORTER

More than 235 teams of college students from all across North America explored an island recently discovered by scientists in the hopes of tracking the mysterious device that caused an initial team of explorers to evacuate in a state of catatonia. The original research team's final radio report,

which sparked the emergency evacuation, was incomprehensible except for references to "killer gummy bears."

The actual event was the College Puzzle Challenge, an annual competition held by Microsoft on Veteran's Day this year at each specific US university and one in Canada. This is the second year the competition

Puzzles, Page 16

Stephen J. Madden

MIT NEWS OFFICE

Stephen J. Madden, Jr. '59, a retired professor who taught in several MIT departments, died Oct. 7. He was 70.

Madden, a mathematician by training, worked at Draper Laboratory and taught in the Departments of Mathematics, Aeronautics and Astronautics, and Earth and Planetary Sciences.

Much of his research involved celestial navigation, flight, fluid mechanics, and gravity. As part of the Apollo missions, he was responsible for determining the precise location of the moon throughout the mission, allowing the deployment and redocking of the lunar module

Madden, Page 18

Student Life Fee May be Increased

Resolution Addresses Problems With Fee, Benefits of Greater Funding

By Nick Bushak

The Student Life Fee could increase from the current \$100 per term to an as yet undecided amount in the next year because of inflation and a more active student body, according to Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict. As of yet, no final decision has been made as to

whether an increase will be necessary. Such an increase would be the first in the history of the Fee.

The Undergraduate Association and the Graduate Student Council passed a joint resolution last week, listing five issues that must be addressed before the Student Life Fee is changed. Separately, the UA Sen-

ate also proposed that the fee be divided into separate student activities and facilities fees.

The UA and GSC joint resolution asserted that "the structure of the [Student Life] Fee is unclear" and that "students do not currently

Student Life Fee, Page 17

In Short

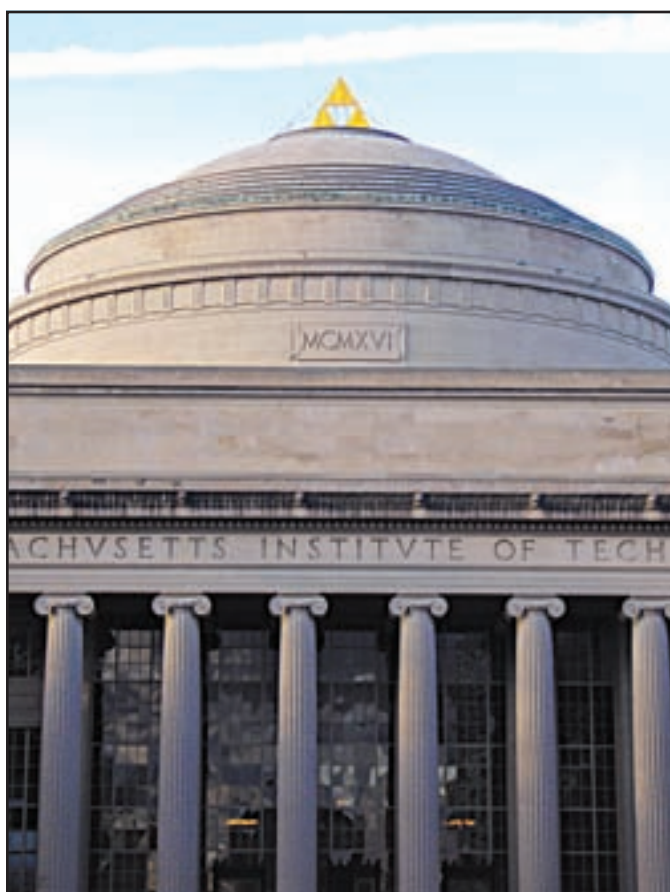
¶ **Finboard allocation applications** for IAP and Spring 2007 are due tomorrow at 5 p.m. The application can be found online at <http://web.mit.edu/finboard/www/>.

¶ **The Thanksgiving airport shuttle**, departing from the Kresge parking lot, is available today and tomorrow for a fee of \$7. Advance reservations are required online at <http://web.mit.edu/facilities/transportation/shuttles/airport.html>

¶ **The Toys for Tickets program**, sponsored by MIT Parking and Transportation, will run between Nov. 27 and Dec. 18. New toys or clothing along with their receipts can be exchanged for settling an outstanding parking ticket fine of equal or lesser value at MIT Medical, MIT Police Station, or the Parking and Transportation Office.

¶ **Julie T. Norris was appointed** as interim director for the Office for Sponsored Programs and will assume her new position starting Dec. 2. Norris previously served as director of OSP for 10 years.

¶ **The virtual Opening of the Books** begins next Monday, Nov. 27. Groups can then begin requesting Campus Activities Complex space for the 2007-2008 academic term at <http://cac-ems.mit.edu/VirtualEMS/Login.aspx>.



MINDY ENG—THE TECH

A simplified "Triforce" symbol from the "Legend of Zelda" video game series appeared on top of the Great Dome early on the morning of Saturday, Nov. 18. The hack was in celebration of the new Nintendo Wii game console along with the Zelda: Twilight Princess game.

The Tech will not publish on Friday, Nov. 24, because of the Thanksgiving holiday. Normal publication will resume next Tuesday, Nov. 28.

NEWS

Tonegawa to step down as director of Picower Page 12
MBTA to lighten wallets Page 12
Wiki: it's not just for research anymore Page 13

NEWS

UA Committee on Orientation releases report Page 14
UA progress through mid-semester Page 15

World & Nation 2
Opinion 4
Comics / Fun Pages 6
Arts 9
Police Log 12
Sports 20

WORLD & NATION

US Considers Temporary Troop Increase in Iraq

By David S. Cloud

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Pentagon officials conducting a review of Iraq strategy are considering a substantial but temporary increase in American troop levels and the addition of several thousand more trainers to work with Iraqi forces, a senior Defense Department official said on Monday.

The idea, dubbed the “surge option” by some officials, would involve increasing American forces by 20,000 troops or more for several months in the hope of improving security, especially in Baghdad. That would mark a sharp rise over the current baseline of 144,000 troops.

But some officials and senior military officers are arguing against the idea, saying that it could undercut a sense of urgency for Iraqi units to take on a greater role in fighting the insurgency and preventing sectarian attacks. Gen. John P. Abizaid, the head of the U.S. Central Command, told Congress last week that the military is stretched so thin that such an increase could not be sustained over the long term.

“There are people who believe that a short-term surge would have a beneficial impact, but there isn’t universal agreement on that yet,” said the senior official, who said that President Bush was scheduled to be briefed in the next several weeks on the developing options.

Bush Ends Trip at Careful Stop in Indonesia

By David E. Sanger

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BOGOR, INDONESIA

President Bush made a six-hour, carefully orchestrated visit to Indonesia on Monday, praising the country’s first directly elected president and seeking to defuse the widespread anger here, in the most populous Islamic country, over the continued American presence in Iraq.

Bush, whose visit to Indonesia three years ago was consumed with talk of counterterrorism, this time appeared focused on fighting bird flu, bolstering a small program to aid Indonesian schools and promoting growth.

And in an afternoon of meetings at an ornate presidential palace that is a legacy of Dutch colonial rule, Bush held a closed-door session with what the White House called “civic leaders” of Indonesia.

Protestors and their “Stop Bush Now” placards could get no where near the Bogor palace, which is an hour outside of Jakarta and heavily protected by troops and fences. But Bush turned the Jakarta protests into a example of how far Indonesia has come in allowing free expression.

Bus’ Plunge Off Overpass Kills 3 Pupils and Hurts 11

By Brenda Goodman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ATLANTA, GA.

A school bus plunged nearly 40 feet off a highway overpass in Huntsville, Ala., on Monday and crashed nose-first into the ground, killing three students and sending 11 others to the intensive care unit, officials said.

“It appears a small compact car also being driven by a student cut in front of, or got too close to, the bus,” said Rex Reynolds, chief of the Huntsville City Police Department.

Reynolds said the driver of the car, a young man, was in custody and being interviewed, but he would not release his name or age.

A team from the National Transportation Safety Board was investigating the accident.

Two high school students, Nicole Ford, 17, and Christine Collier, 18, died at the scene. A third girl, Tanesha Hill, died at Huntsville Hospital, a hospital spokeswoman said. Hill’s age was not immediately available.

Electricity Prices Rise Amid Flaws in the Utilities Market

By David Cay Johnston

THE NEW YORK TIMES

A growing chorus of large industrial power users, municipal utilities and consumer groups say there is a reason the price of electricity has not fallen since the federal government opened the heavily regulated utility industry to competition a decade ago. The new markets, they argue, do not work right.

They point to a variety of reasons. For one thing, when electricity producers offer to supply power for use the next day, utilities pay everyone the highest price accepted. One study in Texas, where electricity bills have been rising sharply, found that because of this auction system, consumers pay a lot more than they would have under the old system where the state regulated prices.

They also contend that producers can withhold power or limit production, with little risk of penalty, even when demand is at its highest, meaning prices soar.

“Shutting down a power plant in July is like the mall closing on the weekend before Christmas, but in July last year, 20 percent of generating capacity was shut down in Cali-

fornia,” said Robert McCullough, an economist whose Oregon consulting business is advising some of those contending in lawsuits that prices are being manipulated.

The government agency that oversees the electricity market — the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission — set the rules before allowing market prices for electricity to replace regulated prices. A coalition of large industrial companies filed a complaint in September, arguing that the energy commission had failed to ensure proper competition and that it had stymied efforts by others to investigate allegations of improper conduct by withholding some of the data it collects.

“The ‘markets’ that are rolling off the commission’s production line are not fit for their public purpose,” wrote Robert A. Weishaar Jr., the lawyer for the industrial companies.

The commission dismisses the critics, saying that where it has determined that a market for electricity exists, the prices in that market are assumed to be “just and reasonable,” the standard set in federal law. The commission’s rules seek to curb monopoly power, but not oligopoly

power, in which a few firms control the market. The commission says that anyone manipulating markets will be discovered either by the monitors in each regional market, by competitors or utilities that buy power, by the commission or even by the public.

Allowing producers of electricity to compete for utility customers should assure the lowest possible price, the commission says.

But the opposite has sometimes been true.

For eight hours last May, for example, the price of a megawatt of power in New England leaped from about \$50 to almost \$1,000. The region’s electricity exchange attributes the spike to congested transmission lines, but has kept the identities of the high bidders secret.

Its own studies say that the exchange’s rules make it possible to inflate prices artificially during periods of high demand and that at least one producer has manipulated prices in the past, though its identity was not disclosed.

Officials of other exchanges all said they had strict rules to ensure that capacity is not withheld from the market to inflate prices artificially.

Recent Forum Turns Into Major Debate on Science and Religion

By George Johnson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Richard Dawkins, the Oxford evolutionary biologist whose book “The God Delusion” is a national best-seller.

Or perhaps the turning point occurred at a more solemn moment, when Neil deGrasse Tyson, director of the Hayden Planetarium in New York City and an adviser to the Bush administration on space exploration, hushed the audience with heartbreaking photographs of newborns misshapen by birth defects — testimony, he suggested, that blind nature, not an intelligent overseer, is in control.

Somewhere along the way, a forum this month at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, Calif., which might have been one more polite dialogue between science and religion, began to resemble the founding convention for a politi-

cal party built on a single plank: In a world dangerously charged with ideology, science needs to take on an evangelical role, vying with religion as teller of the greatest story ever told.

Carolyn Porco, a senior research scientist at the Space Science Institute in Boulder, Colo., called, half in jest, for the establishment of an alternative church, with Tyson, whose powerful celebration of scientific discovery had the force and cadence of a good sermon, as its first minister.

She was not entirely kidding. “We should let the success of the religious formula guide us,” Porco said. “Let’s teach our children from a very young age about the story of the universe and its incredible richness and beauty. It is already so much more glorious and awesome — and even comforting — than anything

offered by any scripture or God concept I know.”

She displayed a picture taken by the Cassini spacecraft of Saturn and its glowing rings eclipsing the Sun, revealing in the shadow a speck called Earth.

There has been no shortage of conferences in recent years, commonly organized by the Templeton Foundation, seeking to smooth over the differences between science and religion and ending in a metaphysical draw. Sponsored instead by the Science Network, an educational organization based in California, and underwritten by a San Diego investor, Robert Zeps (who acknowledged his role as a kind of “anti-Templeton”), the La Jolla meeting, “Beyond Belief: Science, Religion, Reason and Survival,” rapidly escalated into an invigorating intellectual free-for-all.

WEATHER

Tranquil Travel Conditions

Jon Moskaitis

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

For those with travel plans over the next few days, the weather will be quite cooperative, both locally and across most of the rest of the country. Here in the Northeast, a large high pressure system will provide tranquil weather through Wednesday night, with sunny days, clear nights, and light winds. By Thursday, however, a storm that the high pressure system has trapped off the Carolina coast will slowly begin its escape toward the northeast. Rain and wind from this coastal storm will likely arrive in the Cambridge area by Friday, although the timing is rather uncertain at this point.

Over the rest of the country conditions will also be amenable to travel, save for two trouble spots. The aforementioned storm just off of the Carolina coast will bring heavy rain and wind to that area through Wednesday, perhaps leading to some flooding. The Pacific Northwest will also see more rain, adding to monthly precipitation totals that currently stand at 10 to 20 inches (25 to 51 cm) in the lower elevations and 20 to 30 inches (51 to 76 cm) in the west-facing slopes of the Cascades and Olympics!

Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny. High 46°F (8°C).

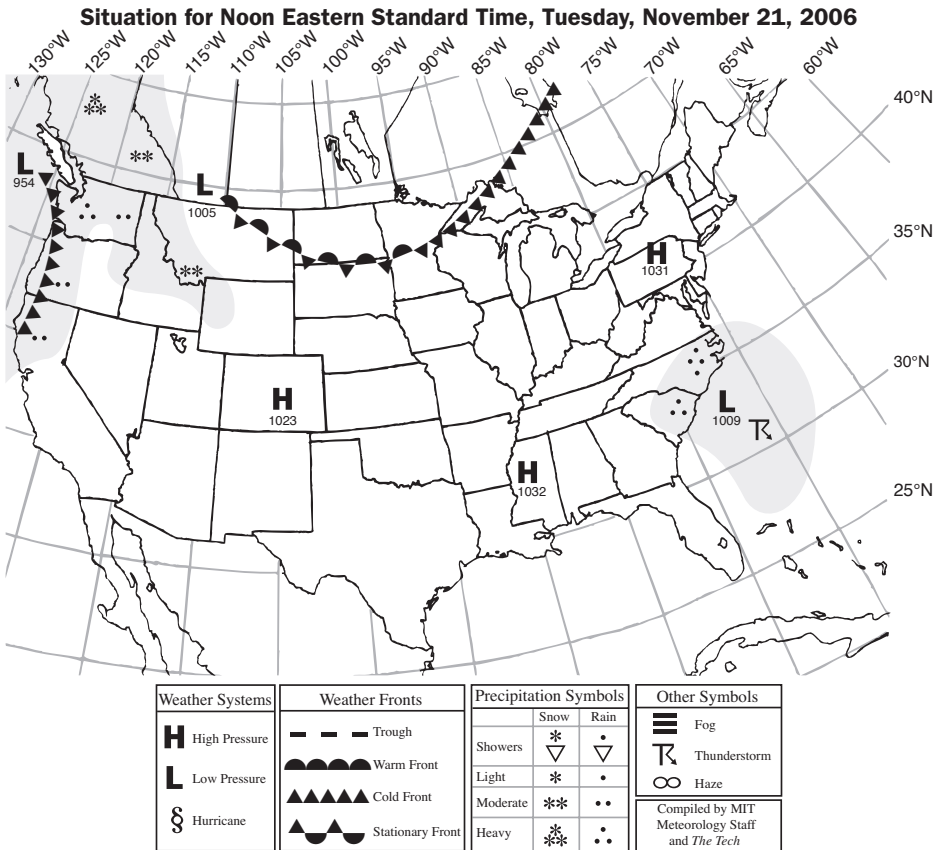
Tonight: Clear and calm. Low 28°F (-2°C).

Tomorrow: Sunny, a bit warmer. High 52°F (11°C).

Tomorrow night: Clear. Low 35°F (2°C).

Thanksgiving: Increasing clouds, with an easterly breeze. High 49°F (9°C).

Friday: Windy with rain likely. High 52°F (11°C).



Stolen Goya Recovered, in Good Condition; No Arrests to Date

By Randy Kennedy
THE NEW YORK TIMES

FBI officials in Newark and Philadelphia said Monday that they had recovered a Goya painting that was stolen from a truck this month while it was being transported from the collection of the Toledo Museum of Art in Ohio to a major exhibition now on view at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York.

Officials said the painting was recovered unharmed Saturday in central New Jersey after a lawyer called the FBI and told investigators where they could find the painting while warning them that he could not tell them anything else about the theft. As of late Monday, no arrests had been made, and because the investigation into the theft remains active, officials would not say exactly where or how the painting had been found.

But they did say it appeared that — contrary to earlier theories among law enforcement officials that the theft was an inside job — the thieves probably had no idea what kind of art-historical loot they had stumbled upon when they broke into the truck overnight in a parking lot at a How-

ard Johnson Inn near Bartonsville, Pa.

“This time of year — close to Christmas — they probably thought they’d found a truck filled with Play-Stations and broke in and started looking for the biggest-looking box,” said Steve Siegel, an FBI agent who serves as the spokesman for the bureau’s Newark’s office.

“Basically, it’s a target-of-opportunity typical New Jersey cargo theft,” Siegel said. “There are literally predators — for lack of a better word — who when they see a tractor trailer or a cargo vehicle parked for any length of time start snooping around.”

Officials at the Toledo Museum of Art said the painting, which was insured for \$1 million, would not be included as a late entry in the Guggenheim show, “Spanish Painting From El Greco to Picasso: Time, Truth and History,” a sprawling exhibition of some 135 paintings by Spanish masters that opened Friday. Instead, the work, painted in 1778 and titled “Children With a Cart,” will be returned to Toledo.

“We are ecstatic that the painting

has been recovered, and we look forward to bringing the Goya home and sharing it again with our community,” Don Bacigalupi, the director of the Toledo Museum of Art, said in a written statement.

Lisa Dennison, the director of the Guggenheim, said the museum would have liked to put the painting back into the show but she added that it was “understandable that the Toledo Museum would want to bring the stolen painting back to its home after this nerve-racking experience.” She pointed out that the show includes 21 other works by Goya, “so the public will not be deprived in any way.”

The crated painting was stolen either late on the night of Nov. 7 or early on Nov. 8 from an outer shipping container in the truck while it was parked in an unlighted lot near the Howard Johnson motel. The two drivers checked in around 11 p.m. on Nov. 7, according to the motel manager, Faizal Bhimani. He said the white midsize truck was left in a lot adjacent to the hotel, out of sight of the motel’s rooms and the main office.

High Court Rules For Large Cuts in Aid Sought by City Public Schools

By David M. Herszenhorn
THE NEW YORK TIMES

New York state’s highest court ended a landmark legal fight over education financing on Monday, ruling that at least \$1.93 billion more must be spent each year on New York City’s public schools far less than the \$4.7 billion that a lower court called the minimum needed to give city children the chance for a sound basic education.

In its 4-2 ruling, the Court of Appeals noted that a commission appointed by Gov. George E. Pataki in 2004 had contemplated a range of spending options for the state to fulfill its constitutional obligation to New York City’s nearly 1.1 million schoolchildren, with \$1.93 billion at the low end of the scale. The court endorsed the \$1.93 billion as “reasonable.”

The amount is to be updated for inflation and other factors, which will bring the total to more than \$2 billion a year.

The judges said that lower courts had erred by proposing their own

sums, treading on the turf of the governor and the state Legislature. “In fashioning specific remedies for constitutional violations, we must avoid intrusion on the primary domain of another branch of government,” Judge Eugene F. Pigott Jr. wrote for the majority.

The New York case, brought by a coalition of education groups called the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, has been among the most closely watched of dozens of lawsuits over school financing filed across the country that seek to direct more money to needy school districts. The ruling cannot be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court because it is based on the state constitution.

The financing issue has divided Albany for years. But for all of the predictions over 13 years of litigation that the suit would reshape education financing in the state, the ruling did not do so. The court did not touch New York’s arcane formulas for education financing and refused to impose new oversight mechanisms.

The decision came as an im-

mense blow to New York City, which, based on prior court rulings, had anticipated up to \$5.63 billion a year in additional education aid. New York state now pays about \$7.1 billion, or roughly 45 percent, of the city’s total education budget of \$15.4 billion, the largest local school budget in the country. The court-ordered increase would be on top of this, but the ruling left open the possibility that the state would press the city to contribute to the added financing.

The decision on Monday also vacated lower courts’ rulings mandating more than \$9 billion in capital aid for new schools, libraries and other amenities, saying that the state had met its obligation last spring by authorizing \$11.1 billion for the city’s schools.

Even as Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg issued a muted statement — “we now look forward to receiving additional funds from the state” — the ruling was greeted with a measure of relief in Albany, especially among Republican lawmakers representing upstate and suburban districts.

Nasdaq Bid to Buy London Exchange Rejected by European Market Giant

By Heather Timmons and James Kanter
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

The Nasdaq Stock Market has intensified a trans-Atlantic takeover battle for the London Stock Exchange in an effort to overtake the rival New York Stock Exchange as the world’s leading equity marketplace.

The London exchange, the largest in Europe, quickly rejected Nasdaq’s \$5.1 billion cash offer on Monday and said it would not meet with Nasdaq executives. Nasdaq officials said that while they still hoped to reach a friendly deal, they planned to go ahead with their offer.

The London market is attractive to Nasdaq because it has benefited from a flood of new money from Asia and the Middle East. It has lured new listings because its regulatory regimen is seen as less onerous than the oversight of stock exchanges in the United States.

A combination of the London market and Nasdaq would create a

company with 6,400 listings and a total market capitalization of \$11.3 trillion pounds — making it the world’s biggest stock market, Nasdaq said.

The world’s stock markets are moving energetically to consolidate, under pressure from customers to reduce fees and offer global services. By merging, exchanges can pool their liquidity and offer better prices to buyers and sellers. Last week, a group of big investment banks added to the pressure by announcing plans to create a pan-European stock-trading platform next year.

Reaching a deal with London could help Nasdaq overtake its rival, the New York Stock Exchange’s parent NYSE Group, in Europe. The New York exchange and Euronext, a network of four European stock markets and a London derivatives market, are expected to ask shareholders for final approval of their planned merger in December.

This is the second time this year that Nasdaq has offered to acquire the London exchange. In March,

London rejected an informal offer of 9.50 pounds a share. On Monday, Nasdaq made an offer of 12.43 pounds a share (\$23.57), up more than 30 percent from March, but only 2 percent above the London exchange’s closing stock price of 12.18 pounds on Friday.

Much has changed since March, though. London’s shareholders have rapidly turned over, and as many as a third of its investors now are thought to be hedge funds, chiefly concerned not with a company’s long-term business strategy but with the highest short-term return.

“It is difficult to see how this is not going to go through,” said Lynton Jones, a founder of Bourse Consult in London, which advises stock exchanges, and a former head of Nasdaq’s international operations. “The London exchange is boxed into a corner.”

But Nasdaq may still need to sweeten its offer. Apparently anticipating a higher bid, investors bid up the shares of the London Stock Exchange 6 percent on Monday, to 12.91 pounds.

Russian Group to Buy Oregon Steel Mill

By Andrew E. Kramer
THE NEW YORK TIMES MOSCOW

The Russian billionaire Roman A. Abramovich offered \$2.3 billion on Monday for an Oregon steel mill in what would be the largest Russian investment to date in the United States.

The Evraz Group, controlled by Abramovich and Russian partners, offered \$63.25 a share in an all-cash bid for Oregon Steel Mills, a maker of the rails used in railroad tracks and of large-diameter pipes; it is based in Portland, Ore. The board of Oregon Steel endorsed the deal on Sunday. It was a 7 percent premium to the company’s closing share price of \$58.96 on Friday on the New York Stock Exchange.

If approved, the takeover would plant another Russian business flag abroad as Russian companies, flat on their backs a decade ago, make a strong comeback, helped by high commodity prices.

Also on Monday, Norilsk Nickel, owned by the billionaires Vladimir O. Potanin and Mikhail D. Prokhorov, offered \$408 million in cash for the nickel-producing assets of the OM Group, based in Cleveland, Bloomberg News reported.

The Oregon offer is the latest evidence of a global trend toward consolidation in the steel industry. Steel makers in India, Brazil, and Russia are buying plants in Europe and North America, shifting power in the industry away from first world companies and showing the clout of commodity-based economies. This spring, Arcelor of Luxembourg merged with Mittal Steel, owned by the Indian tycoon Lakshmi N. Mittal, after rejecting a rival offer from Severstal of Russia.

Yes, He Lost Mexico’s Vote, So He’s Swearing Himself in

By James C. McKinley Jr.
THE NEW YORK TIMES MEXICO CITY

Don Quixote, move over. The losing leftist candidate for president swore himself in on Monday as “the legitimate president of Mexico” before a huge crowd of his avid fans, ignoring rulings by federal electoral authorities and the courts that he narrowly lost the election last July.

The candidate, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, a former Mexico City mayor who took on Mexico’s entrenched oligarchy, chose the anniversary of the Mexican revolution for the event. He has continued to assert that his opponents used fraud to deny him victory.

Appearing on a stage in the historic Constitution Plaza, with Mexican flags and an enormous eagle banner behind him, he promised to goad the government of the president-elect, Felipe Calderon, a conservative from President Vicente Fox’s National Action Party, into adopting Lopez Obrador’s proposals.

About 100,000 people crowded into the square and roared with approval when a copy of the traditional green, white and red presidential banner was placed across his chest.

“We are assembled here to confront a fraudulent election,” he said, “and to take on a regime of corruption and privileges, to start the construction of a new republic.”

Syria and Iraq Restore Ties Severed in the Saddam Era

By Sabrina Tavernise
THE NEW YORK TIMES BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Iraq re-established diplomatic relations with Syria on Monday, agreeing to restore an embassy in Baghdad after more than 20 years with no formal avenues of communication.

The step came on the second day of a two-day visit by Syria’s foreign minister, Walid al-Moallem, who met with the Iraqi prime minister, Nouri Kamal al-Maliki, in the international Green Zone here.

As the United States undertakes a broad review of its role in Iraq, the neighboring countries of Iran, Turkey and Syria have stepped forward to try to position themselves in case of a major change in policy, leading to a recent flurry of diplomatic efforts. The countries are also concerned about the possibility of a political collapse as the Iraqi government sinks into paralysis with its two main sects stuck in a deadlock.

A government spokesman said President Jalal Talabani would travel to Iran for meetings with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad over the weekend.

Syria cut off relations with Saddam Hussein’s government in 1982 after siding with Iran in that country’s war with Iraq. The break was complete: Iraqis could not travel to Syria, nor call on the phone. The countries re-established trade relations in 1997, and Iraqis could visit.

News Corp. Cancels O.J. Simpson Book and Interview

By Bill Carter and Edward Wyatt
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Bowing to intense pressure both outside and inside the company, the News Corp. on Monday canceled its plans to publish a book and broadcast an interview with O.J. Simpson in which he was to give a hypothetical account of how he might have murdered his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman.

The company was responding to a week’s worth of ferocious criticism that included threats of boycotts of advertisers who might sponsor the television broadcast on the Fox network, refusals by stations to carry the program, open opposition from television hosts like Bill O’Reilly, on the Fox News Channel — which, like Fox, is owned by the News Corp. — and statements by stores that they might not stock the book, which was titled “If I Did It.” The book was to be published by HarperCollins, also owned by News Corp.

Rupert Murdoch, the chairman of News Corp., issued a statement Monday announcing that the television show would not be broadcast and the book would not be published.

“I and senior management agree with the American public that this was an ill-considered project,” Murdoch said.

OPINION



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Corrections

A review of BodyWorlds 2 in the Nov. 17 issue incorrectly asserted that a display of preserved embryos was part of the Museum of Science's own collection on the reproductive system. In fact, the embryos belong exclusively to the BodyWorlds 2 exhibition.

Letters To The Editor

Hacked Survey Hosted With Zoomerang

In "Survey Foiled by Fast Food Fraud", an email I wrote to MIT Campus Dining was quoted, indicating "It is possible for a student to set up a program to change his/her IP address to vote multiple times."

This particular survey was hosted with a commercial web survey service known as Zoomerang, which is often used for quick opinion

polls around MIT. This Zoomerang survey was set up to allow one response per IP address. After closing the survey, I noticed a pattern of response indicating someone had "ballot-stuffed" the survey, most likely with a computer program designed to automatically submit responses from different IP addresses.

Web surveys run by the IS&T Web Survey Service and the Office of Institutional Research are not set up using Zoomerang. Generally, our surveys authenticate individual responses, usually with MIT web certificates or assigned

unique web links, ensuring one response per person. The Office of Institutional Research recommends that any survey that is used for administrative purposes or decision-making be authenticated.

Despite the efforts of a Taco Bell fan committing "Fast Food Fraud," the Dining Survey did yield useful data to help with directions for food services in Lobdell.

Jagruti S. Patel '97
Senior IT Consultant
Information Services and Technology



Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Zachary Ozer, Editor in Chief Marie Y. Thibault, Managing Editor Michael McGraw-Herdeg, Executive Editor Rosa Cao, and Opinion Editor Aditya Kohli.

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Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter let-

ters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

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When Safety Doesn't Come First

Thomas W. Hay

SafeRide. The idea behind it is brilliant: It helps students living further away to get to campus faster. It allows students to get around in the winter without having to brave the cold or walk on sidewalks and streets that can be hazardous to traverse when iced over. It acts as a designated driver, providing a safe means of transportation to students if they have been drinking. Finally, it is complemented by a convenient online tracking system (ShuttleTrack) that lets the user know where it is going next. In principle, SafeRide is a beneficial service for the MIT community.

In practice, however, SafeRide is flawed. First, it simply does not run on time. The Web site warns that heavy traffic, weather, and van maintenance can all cause shuttle delays. "Can delay" implies occasional inconveniences, but SafeRide is always late. MIT's workload is hard enough; students in living groups off-campus do not need the added stress of having to rely on SafeRide to get to class on time. With a total of 25 fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups located in Boston and six located in Cambridge or Brookline, an inefficient SafeRide hurts a substantial part of the MIT undergraduate population.

The ShuttleTrack web site is supposed to solve the tardiness problem by letting riders know when SafeRide will arrive at a certain stop. However, in my experience, ShuttleTrack is rarely functional. Sometimes, the site gives no position for SafeRide, other times the position of the shuttle is inaccurate. A good first step would be to make sure the GPS in each shuttle is operating correctly.

MIT should make SafeRide a priority since it is so widely used by the student body. If shuttles need maintenance or new equipment, MIT should quickly accommodate those needs. MIT is a leader in engineering and information technology; the fact that we can not even track the SafeRide shuttles consistently using widespread and proven technology such as GPS is embarrassing.

Another problem is overcrowding on board shuttles. Recently, MIT has tried to fix this problem by adding more buses (that are bigger than the traditional SafeRide shuttles) to

Since many students use Saferide just to get across the bridge, a shuttle that just goes back and forth across the bridge every ten minutes or so would be very useful.

certain routes. This has been a huge help in alleviating overcrowding, but more can be done. I have seen students get kicked off of SafeRide because there is physically not enough room for them to fit on. This creates two problems. First, students that can not fit on SafeRide are forced to wait up to 30 minutes (depending on the day of the week and the time) for the next shuttle. Second, on weekends, overcrowding forces students to walk across the ill-lit Harvard Bridge, which can be risky late at night. The purpose of SafeRide is defeated if an in-

toxicated student is kicked off of SafeRide and then has to walk back to campus or his fraternity. SafeRide is supposed to provide a means of safe transportation. When the students who need it most are getting kicked off and instead forced to walk across the bridge, then SafeRide has failed its purpose.

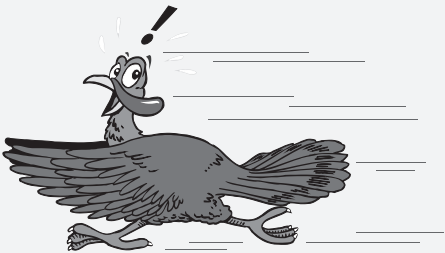
To solve this problem, drivers should not try to pack as many students on as possible, as that would create an unsafe situation. Rather, during hours when students are traveling in peak numbers into Boston and Cambridge, there should be more shuttles operating so students do not have to wait for another SafeRide to come.

An alternate solution is to create a bridge shuttle. Since many students use SafeRide just to get across the bridge, a shuttle that just goes back and forth across the bridge every ten minutes or so would be very useful. A bridge shuttle would decrease overcrowding on the Boston East and West SafeRides and prevent students from having to cross the frigid Harvard Bridge in the winter or if they are under the influence.

SafeRide has all the potential to be an effective and efficient means to get around campus. All MIT needs to do is put a little more money into the program and make sure ShuttleTrack consistently works. With the addition of a bridge shuttle, many of the problems related to overcrowding could be eliminated. These suggestions could be easily implemented by MIT and would make SafeRide live up to its name and purpose. If you agree or see any other flaws with SafeRide, let MIT know by calling 617-258-6510 or by sending an e-mail to mitparking@mit.edu.

Thomas W. Hay is a member of the class of 2010.

Gobble, Gobble, Gobble



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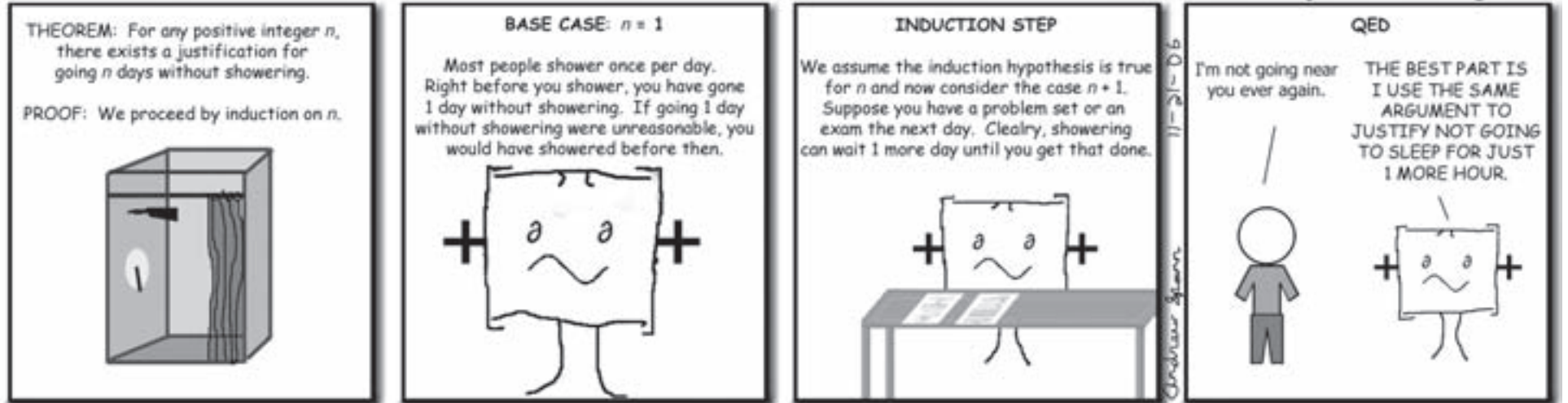


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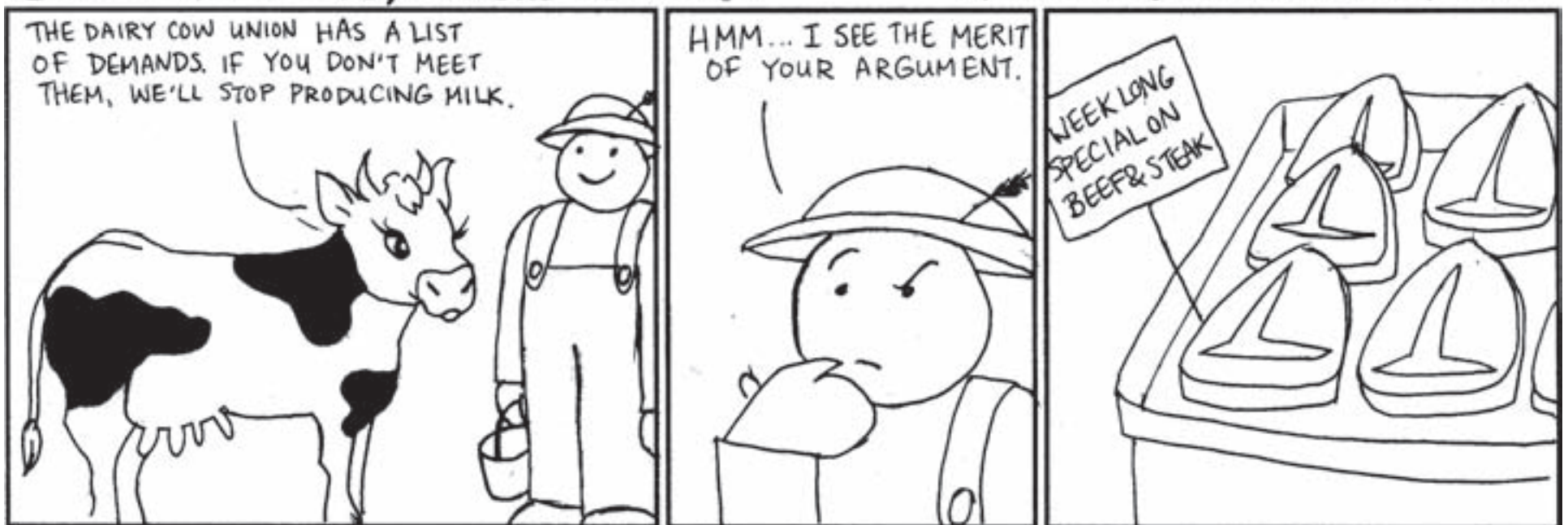
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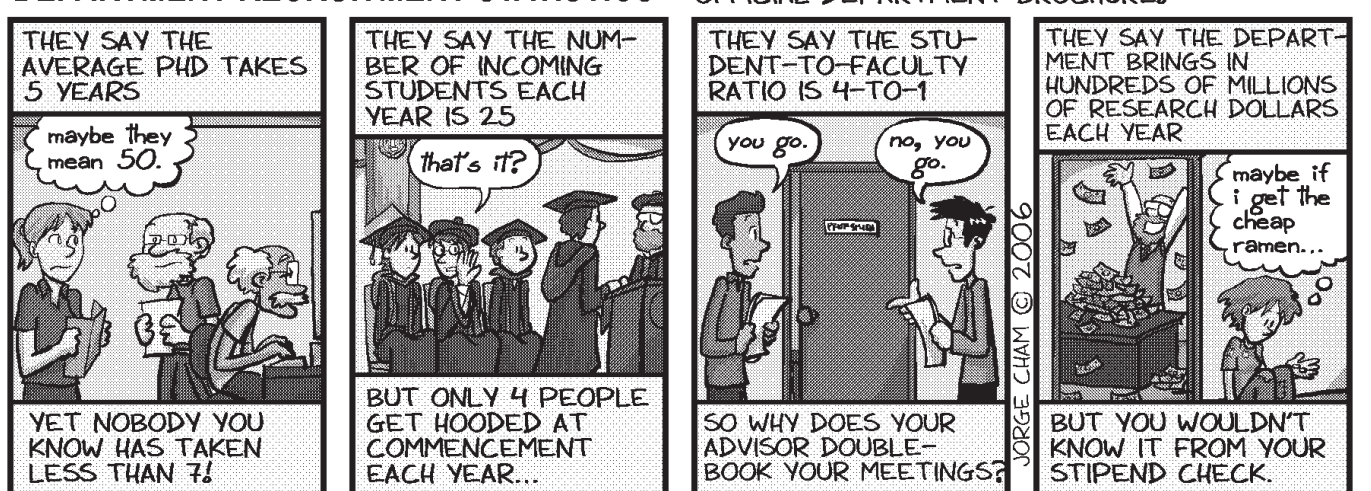


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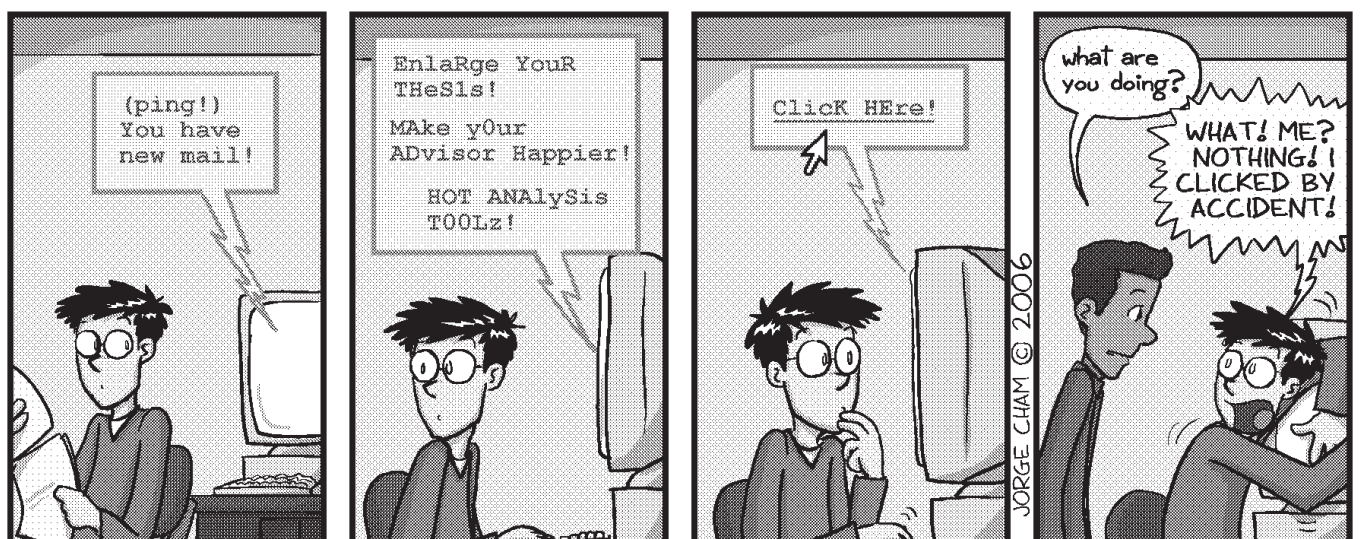
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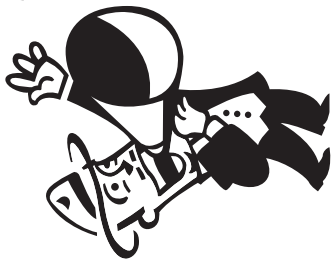
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ARTS

CONCERT REVIEW

*Impulse Mixes Humor and Harmony**Newest All Male A Cappella Group has Potential*

By Jillian Berry

ARTS EDITOR

MIT Impulse / MIT Muses

Fall Concert

Friday, Nov. 17, 2006

54-100

MIT Impulse, MIT's newest all male a cappella group, held its fall concert this past Friday, Nov. 17, in 54-100. The six members of the group — Zachary J. Watts '07, Jonathan M. Long '08, Christian R. Deonier G, Hao Ding '10, Christopher M. Yang '08, and Terral R. Jordan '07 — all came running out on "stage" in sophisticated suits. While the concert featured the MIT Muses, they did not perform as an opening group, but instead came on halfway through the show.

Impulse started off with Yang singing "Thank You" by Boyz II Men. Their rendition had a mature and jazzy tone with each member providing a different range of music. The background singers' range would have been more impressive if there were more members to help fill out the sound. With only six members (who seemed a little nervous) it sounded like something was missing. However, they performed this song again at the end of the concert (which was a little odd, I must admit) when they were more relaxed, and it sounded like a different song with Yang belting out the lyrics with energy and feeling.

The men next went on to perform "Sweet Adeline," a 1920s vaudeville song, with Ding as the soloist. Standing on stage in a line, they were reminiscent of an old barbershop quartet (even if there were six of them). For their third piece, they set up by explaining that this was their attempt to be a "boy band." Jordan took center stage as he sang Da Vinci's Notebook's "Title of the Song." This song probably drew

out the most laughs as it satirizes the banal lyrics of the typical boy band singles. Although there were a few off notes, the audience was so into it, and the singers were so energetic, that it didn't matter. Impulse followed up with Jordan singing "Tempted" by Squeeze, after which the Muses, MIT's all female a cappella group, took the floor.

Morgan C. Scully '09 started things off for the Muses with Natasha Bedingfield's "Unwritten." Scully's voice was intoxicating and sounded as if it were coming from somewhere very deep inside of her. However, she was somewhat overpowered by the rest of the group, who seemed a little out of sync. Next, soloist Priscilla W. Army '10 performed "I'll Be" by Edwin McCain, followed by a rendition of Shakira's "Don't Bother" by Lunduo (Linda) Ye '08. Ye's voice was deep and soulful, but like Scully, she was often overpowered by the background singers. However, during the chorus, I was impressed as everyone came together as a whole.

When Impulse returned, they decided to show us their "real" voices and sing The Beatles' "Yesterday" without microphones. While they certainly proved they can sing without microphones, I was not a fan of their arrangement for the song. Forced to become a typical a cappella song, the piece lost the intense, yet subtle power of what is considered by many to be one of the best songs ever written.

After "Yesterday," they returned to the microphones for "I'll Hear Your Voice" by Rockapella and Stevie Wonder's "Signed, Sealed, Delivered" (I guess they wanted to be like that other all male a cappella group on campus). With both of these songs, they sounded as



GHEORGHE CHISTOL—THE TECH

Impulse a capella members Christian R. Deonier G, Christopher M. Yang '08, and Hao Ding '10 (left to right) sing "Title of the Song" in 54-100 on Friday, Nov. 17. The Muses were also featured in the concert.

though they were finding their rhythm, as more energy and confidence flowed through their performance.

In between all the songs, there was some comedic banter between the group members and the audience. This certainly helped to set the mood and allowed the singers to relax a little. As many in the audience were friends of the Impulse men, they were very comfortable yelling out ridiculous things, which made the audience feel more involved. In fact, after their rendition of "Title of the Song," a member of the audience yelled out, "Chris Yang, are you

married?" After a pause, Yang replied with a well-timed "no?" The members even made light of their nervousness as Yang singled me out (he knew I was writing the review) and explained that he had had a nightmare that the review in *The Tech* would be titled "Bad Stand-Up Routine Interrupted by Mediocre Singing." Luckily, MIT Impulse does not need to worry about that happening. This new all male a cappella group is certainly no Logs, but it has a lot of potential. With a little more time, and maybe a few more members, I think they'll fit right in with the other a cappella groups on campus.

FILM REVIEW

*A Moment With Wongfu Productions**Amateur Group Screens Their First Movie, "A Moment With You"*

By Tina Ro

STAFF WRITER

A Moment With You

Wongfu Productions

Written, Directed, and Produced by Wesley Chan, Ted Fu, and Philip Wong

Thursday, Nov. 16, 2006

54-100

www.wongfuproductions.com

On Thursday, Nov. 16, MIT's Chinese Students Club sponsored a screening of "A Moment With You," by the amateur group Wongfu Productions. Although the large crowd was primarily composed of Asian students, the movie itself is not targeted toward a specific audience. The movie screening was open to the entire MIT community and ended with an opportunity for the audience to ask the three gentlemen of Wongfu

Productions questions.

Wongfu Productions is really Wesley Chan, Ted Fu, and Philip Wong. The three men started off as freshman roommates at the University of California, San Diego, and went on to create their own filming company: Sketchbook Media. Prior to this movie, they made music videos and other short films — all of which can be found on YouTube.

In their senior year at UCSD, the three decided to create a full-length feature film. After working for eight months on the film, while also finishing their schoolwork, they created an hour and forty minutes worth of film.

The film's storyline centers on two contrasting characters, Dustin and Arthur, who come from different backgrounds, and are shaped by very different experiences, yet come to learn the same life lessons.

Arthur is the classic, stereotypical dork who

has never had a girlfriend; a girl finally comes into his life, yet Arthur refuses to acknowledge her and take advantage of this opportunity.

Dustin does not have a problem finding women. However, the only girl he thinks of is his ex-girlfriend. He cannot let go of this relationship from years ago. The theme focuses on the importance of certain moments that shape the lives of individuals and the importance of making the most of present opportunities. The dialogue is reminiscent of that between Joey and Dawson in the old teen drama Dawson's Creek, but with more sophistication.

The movie fits the genre of romantic comedy with less emphasis on the comedy and more on serious life themes. However, many scenes and romantic moments in the movie are "aww" provoking and surprisingly simple. Chan, Fu, and Wong explained that simplicity was key: these events could have been experienced by

anyone.

Despite its large Asian fan base, Wongfu's movie has a cast of equal numbers of Asians and Caucasians. Furthermore, all the characters were shaped by their own characteristics rather than by their race, a refreshing concept for a movie.

After the showing, the audience enthusiastically clapped and cheered. The three movie-makers then answered questions from the audience ranging from how the set was made to whether or not they were single. (Their set was a friend's apartment, and two of the three are single, though they did not provide phone numbers).

"A Moment With You" will be publicly available next spring; for updates see www.wongfuproductions.com. A trailer for "A Moment With You," can be found on the movie web site www.amomentwithyou.com.

CONCERT REVIEW

*An Odd Couple at the Opera House**Ted Leo Brings Energy, Death Cab Induces Sleep*

By Tyson McNulty

Ted Leo and the Pharmacists

and Death Cab for Cutie

Thursday, Nov. 2, 2006

Boston Opera House

Back in October, a friend of mine told me that Ted Leo and the Pharmacists were going to be playing at the Opera House in November. When the day finally came, I was psyched. I had seen Ted once before at Somerville Theater and knew I could expect some serious, non-stop hits. The rest of the world seemed to have heard about a Death Cab for Cutie concert that was also happening at the Opera House at the same time. That night, we converged, bewildered, watched our concerts, watched each other's concerts, exchanged nothing, and departed.

The house was barely half full when Ted opened the show. I was surprised to find that even though I was second-row-center, there were no other avid Ted Leo fans in sight. After he got into the middle of his set, I hardly noticed any more because I was too busy singing

along to every word. He played eight songs in all. Four of them were from "Shake the Sheets" (his most recent album), three were from earlier releases, and one was brand new. It's hard to choose a favorite out of "Me and Mia," "Timorous Me," "Where Have All the Rude Boys Gone?," and "Counting Down the Hours;" in fact, I submit that it can't be done. Ted rocked the house, but the house barely knew it. For those of you out there who haven't seen or heard of Ted Leo before, they're a power trio with an uncanny sense of rock aesthetics and lyrics with a stirring, often politically charged subtext. The members' musicianship make Ted Leo albums true to the live sound, and Ted's songwriting is unparalleled. He reminds us that intellectually elevated music doesn't have to be moody and timid.

The intermission lasted about 20 minutes, but it still wasn't enough to prepare me for the contrast between the end of Ted's set and the beginning of Death Cab for Cutie's. Death Cab played 19 songs total, three of which were encores. Barring some electronic feedback issues during "Lightness" and some pitch problems

in "Marching Bands of Manhattan," I offer no real complaints about the quality of their performance. Ben Gibbard has a knack for writing lyrics in paragraph form, putting them over four repeated chords that somehow make you forget they rarely even rhyme at all, and writing choruses that are at times brilliant and at times just plain annoying, but invariably catchy. In the end, I think they managed to reach my expectations but not to exceed them.

For me, the highlights were mainly the 30 percent of the songs they played that weren't from "Transatlanticism" or "Plans" — namely "405," "We Laugh Indoors," "President of What," and "Photobooth." Interestingly, these lesser known songs were evenly spaced throughout the set, and they seemed to be the songs the band enjoyed playing the most. It was almost as if the band was trying to turn their fans on to some of their albums that hadn't received obscene amounts of media hype. Also impressive was "We Looked Like Giants," which turned into a 10-minute extended jam during which Ben played on a miniature drum set which was assembled and disassembled during the song.

It was one of those "OK, I admit it, that was pretty cool" things that would have made even the most scrupulous music critics consider Death Cab for re-entry into the canon of enduring musical significance. For the rest of the set, I found myself more entertained by the crowd itself. Picture an opera house packed with comatose fans swaying under the influence of any given Death Cab lullaby. The audience would come to life for five seconds every minute or so only to murmur a few choruses. "I Will Follow You Into the Dark" was particularly surreal. A friend of mine who came with me said it best when, as Ben began the song, she muttered, "Oh, God, I feel like I just clicked on their MySpace page." Everyone would stare at the stage as if they were watching "Plans" cycle through on a CD player. Creepy.

Shows like this are rare. Not often does one get the chance to see two bands with such disparate appeal appear back-to-back. I still can't wrap my mind around the fact that Ted Leo opened for Death Cab and not the other way around, but I can't say the experience was a disappointment.

Festival Jazz Ensemble Presents “Saxophrenia and Other Be



The Festival Jazz Ensemble put on “Saxophrenia and other Benign Maladies” this past Saturday, Nov. 18 in Kresge Auditorium. The concert featured special guests Mark S. Harvey, lecturer for the Music and Theater Arts Section, and saxophone soloist Arni Cheatham.

(counter-clockwise from left) Matthew J. Abrahamson G plays a bass trombone solo during the Festival Jazz Ensemble Combo’s performance of “United,” by Wayne Shorter.

Daniel E. Bickerstaff ’10 (right) and John P. Murphy ’10 (left) play guitar and bass, respectively.

Mark S. Harvey jumps at the crescendo as the final piece, his own “Movin’ On,” comes to a close.

Guest performer Arni Cheatham plays an alto and a tenor saxophone simultaneously during “Movin’ On.”

Pianist Matthew J. Rosario ’10 plays the keyboard during the performance of “Cantaloupe Island,” composed by Herbie Hancock and arranged by Guillermo Klein.

Photography by Omari Stephens



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Benign Maladies” in Kresge



Ring the Alarm: Dance Competition

Ring the Alarm, an intercollegiate group dance competition and afterparty was held in Lobdell this past Saturday evening. The event was sponsored by MIT’s Collegiate Party Renaissance and Mocha Moves, featuring five MIT groups and four other dance groups from Boston University, Wellesley, and Simmons College.

(right) Mathangi Radha ’09 shows off her umbrella.

(below) Shyamli Sinha ’07 (left) and Adlai R. Grayson ’08 (right) show off their moves.



DANIEL JANG—THE TECH



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Director of Picower to Step Down

Biology professor Susumu Tonegawa announced that he will step down as head of the Picower Institute for Learning and Memory on Dec. 31, 2006 when his appointment expires. An interim director will be named before that date, according to an MIT News Office press release.

News Briefs

In a statement sent to members of Picower, Tonegawa explained that his decision to step down was motivated by a desire to devote more time to research, as well as “my belief that, in order to move the neuroscience community at MIT towards a more cooperative spirit and a shared vision of excellence, a new generation of leadership is needed.”

Tonegawa declined to comment further. Three weeks ago, an investigative committee deemed Tonegawa’s actions during the failed recruitment of a young female scientist as “inappropriate” while stating that his actions were at least somewhat provoked by the actions of other faculty members and administrators. The investigation began after Tonegawa was accused in July of bullying Alla Y. Karpova into declining an assistant professorship in the Biology Department.

The investigative committee is preparing to release a modified version of the report in the coming weeks.

“Professor Tonegawa has shown admirable character in making a decision that he viewed as in the best interests of MIT,” Reif said in an e-mail.

Dean of Science Robert J. Silbey will oversee the process to identify the next Picower director. Silbey did not immediately return a call yesterday.

—Angeline Wang

T Fare to Jump in January

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority fares will rise again in Jan. 2007, a 200 percent increase from Dec. 2003. Local bus lines will cost \$1.50, up from 90 cents, subway fares will be \$2.00, up from \$1.25, and commuter rail fees will also see an increase. Free rides for outbound passengers on the Green Line, as well as exit fares on the Red Line, will also be discontinued, according to the MBTA Web site.

Cheaper fares will be offered for users of the CharlieCard, a plastic ticket that can be reloaded with money and reused. Bus and subway fares with the CharlieCard will cost \$1.25 and \$1.70, respectively, according to the MBTA Web site. Users of the CharlieCard will receive free transfers to local busses from the subway, and vice versa.

Monthly passes for the bus and rail lines will drop to \$59 a month, about a \$20 decrease from the current price. The last MBTA fare increase was in Jan. 2004.

—Benjamin P. Gleitzman

Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the MIT or Cambridge Police between Nov. 1 and Nov. 13, 2006. This summary does not include incidents such as false alarms, general service calls, or medical shuttles.

- Nov. 1:** W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 9:33 a.m., WMS warrant on Michael Kreisel, 11 Garden St., Cambridge; arrested on an outstanding warrant.

Nov. 2: W92, 1:15 a.m., At approximately 11:10 p.m. power loss due to explosion on Audrey St. in manhole; Cambridge Fire Department, Cambridge Police, and NSTAR responded; late entry due to computer problems due to outage. M54 (21 Rear Ames St.), 1:25 a.m., Received call from Cambridge Police for 911 hangup in Bldg 54; car dispatched; radio society repeater problems; malfunction Cambridge Police notified.

Nov. 5: W70 (471 Memorial Dr.), 5:54 a.m., Report of an intruder being chased at New House; MIT Police dispatched for a routine check. Railroad tracks, rear of W79 (229 Vassar St.), 4:55 p.m., Reporting person states male subject set a fire in a cement construction pipe with cardboard and wood material; the suspect is described as a White male, tall, dressed in dark clothing, wearing a hat and carrying a duffle bag; he was seen leaving the area from the rear of Simmons Hall towards Albany St. MIT Police responded with the Cambridge Fire Department and Cambridge Police.

Nov. 10: W13 (52 Mass. Ave.), 11:38 a.m., Victim reports unauthorized use of her credit card.

Nov. 13: M68 (31 Ames St.), 8:08 a.m., Restraining order paperwork was served in hand; return of service to issuing police department. W13 (52 Mass. Ave.), 11:32 p.m., A female student was walking on the Harvard Bridge when a man exposed himself.

COMPILED BY ANGELINE WANG

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'Wiki Model' Joins New Realms, From Research to Cake Design

By Robert Weisman
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Buoyed by the growth of the online encyclopedia Wikipedia, the wiki model of shared writing and editing is spreading into surprising new realms, from accounting, real estate, and academic research to cake design and even intelligence gathering.

"Wikis are finally becoming mainstream," said Newton technology pioneer Dan Bricklin, who plans to release WikiCalc, a next-generation spreadsheet that lets multiple users simultaneously log and update numbers via the Internet, by the end of November.

Jamaica Plain artists Ravi Jain and Sonia Targotsidis, have launched Wiki-Cake, which they called an online experiment in col-

lective cake-baking. "It's kind of like picking out your wedding cake, only with a lot of people," Targotsidis said.

A wiki — the word comes from a Hawaiian term for "rapidly" — is a type of computer software that allows people to create and change Web page content with their browsers, enabling the kind of open editing model employed by online communities like the five-year-old Wikipedia. While new wiki projects have cropped up in recent years in technology labs and college dorms, the concept is now being adopted in business, education, and government, often on the public Internet but sometimes behind firewalls restricting participation to employees or customers.

"It's not just a tool, it's a culture," said Jonathan L. Zittrain, a former Harvard Law School professor who teaches Internet governance and regulation at Oxford University in England. "The idea that exactly one person has to hold the quill at any moment is an assembly line concept. The wiki concept is about parallel production. And under the right conditions, the results can be spectacular."

Zillow.com, the Seattle Web site that pulls local property records to give instant estimates of home values across the country, installed a wiki tool in September enabling visitors to add information about their houses. MIT's new Center for Collective Intelligence last month rolled out a wiki handbook inviting researchers to jointly post and edit their ideas about harnessing knowledge.

MIT's Sloan School of Management is working with the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and British publisher Pearson on a business book written and edited by wiki. And, the CIA and other US intelligence agencies have created the Intellipedia wiki to encourage analysts to post and share intelligence leads on a secure site.

One sign that the trend is reaching critical mass came when online search giant Google Inc. jumped into the wiki game last month, acquiring California startup JotSpot Inc., which develops collaboration tools letting Internet users create, modify, and delete information. Google hopes to incorporate the wikis into its new suite of software services.

But some of the early wiki adopters have stumbled. Wikipedia, the Web encyclopedia cobbled together by tens of thousands of contributors, claims to be more accurate than Encyclopedia Britannica. But it had to deputize a cleanup crew to enforce quality standards, catch mistakes, and restore stories altered by pranksters or partisans. (The same wiki technology that transforms Web sites into interactive bulletin boards allows them to be rolled back in time.) In one notorious incident, a saboteur falsely implicated a Nashville news-

paper editor in the Kennedy assassinations.

Another wiki fiasco was last year's *Los Angeles Times* introduction of "wikitorials," inviting readers to rewrite the newspaper's editorials online. The experiment was abandoned after three days when the Web site was swamped with obscenities and pornography.

Such problems haven't deterred the new wiki entrepreneurs and enthusiasts, some of whom permit access to the technology only within their communities.

Bricklin's WikiCalc, for instance, could be used by accountants in various divisions of a company to enter, store, and add data, or by coaches in a middle school basketball league to post scores, schedules, and rosters.

Users could decide whether to open the program to all or only to group members.

"The wiki responds to the need for shared editing," Bricklin said, noting that the software's audit trail feature cuts down on abuses. The inventor of the first electronic spreadsheet, VisCalc, back in 1979, Bricklin is releasing WikiCalc as an "open source" product, meaning software developers are free to improve or modify it to fit their needs.

Excited by the potential of the technology to involve the masses in a shared creative experience, artists Jain and Targotsidis decided to invite strangers to come together online and make a cake. They announced the project on their video blog and brought a laptop to the opening of an "Art Cake" exhibition at Cambridge's Axiom Gallery, a wireless Internet hotspot, where they asked visitors to vote for cake bases and fillings. A 10-year-old girl attending the event suggested adding orchids and chocolate-dipped raspberries to the cake-in-progress.

"We're just really trying to embrace new media, and we've been fascinated with wikis the past few months," said Jain.

Participants in later Wiki-Cake rounds will be asked to weigh in on frostings, decorations, and garnishes before a real cake is baked based on the collective feedback, and then exhibited before it's eaten. "We're experimenting with group consensus, but that doesn't mean that somebody can throw up something outlandish, cat food or something," Jain noted. "That would be crazy."

On the opposite extreme from Wiki-Cake is Intellipedia, a system put into place earlier this year by National Intelligence Director John D. Negroponte. It lets the nation's 16 intelligence agencies share information and create internal sites continually updated with data and analysis on events in trouble spots like Nigeria, Iran, and North Korea.

While the service isn't open to the public, it is meant to foster more open debate within an intelligence community still divided over prewar assessments of Iraq's nuclear weapons program. More than 3,600 intelligence officers have registered for Intellipedia, where the classifications range from "sensitive but unclassified" to "top secret."

The new wiki tool added to real estate site Zillow.com on Sept. 20 already has been used by about 200,000 homeowners, including 10,000 in Massachusetts. Most have been potential sellers trumpeting new kitchens or bathroom remodeling or challenging square footage figures culled from county records. "When you can utilize the collective intelligence of millions of people, that's when the Web is the most useful," said Amy Bohutinsky, a Zillow spokeswoman.

At MIT, the Center for Collec-

tive Intelligence is studying the wiki phenomenon and compiling a wiki handbook — a collection of research on the topic. "Wikipedia has sparked people's imaginations in other fields," said center director Thomas W. Malone, a management professor at MIT's Sloan School of Management. "It's true it has shortcomings, but so does everything else. Think of Wikipedia as the first Wright Brothers plane. Now we're trying to advance the science."

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Committee Considers REX Schedule, Advising Policy

This is the fourth of a series of weekly interviews with members of different Undergraduate Association committees. These interviews will be conducted by The Tech's news editors and members of the editorial board. A UA representative will be present during these interviews as well. Questions for the UA committee members should be sent to uaqa@the-tech.mit.edu the same week they are featured. Responses to these questions will be printed alongside the following week's interview.

UA Q&A

This week's committee is the Orientation Committee. The Tech talked to committee chair Andrew P. Spann '07 (also a Tech cartoonist) and UA President Andrew T. Lukmann '07.

The Tech: Tell me first about the Orientation Committee. What is your purpose?

Andrew Spann: We have about a dozen members. Our goal is to be a policy and advising committee on all things Orientation related. This includes both getting opinions from students and working with administrators, such as on the SLOPE Orientation planning committee and [Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming]'s fall planning meeting sessions as well.

TT: Is the Orientation Committee a yearly thing?

AS: It used to be the Committee on Housing and Orientation in years past. This year there are two separate committees. In years past the committee had a dual focus, so one [aspect] wound up getting slighted. In some ways there is a little bit of overlap but they are distinct enough that it merits having two committees, and I think more is getting done by having distinct committees.

TT: What has the Orientation Committee been working on this year?

AS: We just got through writing this report on Orientation. It runs about 30 pages plus appendices. To make this report we talked to Robin Smedick [assistant director of Housing] ... and got the survey results that the Department of Housing ran.

Whenever freshman enter the housing adjustment lottery or confirm their current assignment they fill out a survey. We got those results. We conducted two surveys on our own. One [survey was] aimed at freshmen where the week of October 9-12 we visited five dorms handing out donuts and having a paper survey meant to supplement the Department of Housing survey with a few questions that had not really been looked at as much. We had some really broad free response big-idea type questions. We had questions about the effects of residence-based advising on Residential Exploration. We had questions about the Boston T

Party which was a new event this year, so no questions before exist about it. We also had a page on [fraternities, sororities, and independent living group] questions. And then we had an online UA upperclassmen survey the week after that which had basically the free response questions on the first page of the freshmen survey given to upperclassmen.

TT: Before we get into the results of the survey, do you think your method of gathering input was effective? Are there any ways to improve it?

AS: We already had from the Department of Housing a lot of statistical multiple choice data. So one thing that we went with then for the new UA surveys was a lot of free response emphasis. The idea being that ... you give people completely unconstrained questions and see what they say. ... If we have a lot of people who just gravitate toward the same answers, I think that says a lot. The downside is that if you give people free response questions, a

lot of people skip them or say "No, I'm not filling out this survey."

TT: I wanted to ask you first about the RBA program. That seems to fall somewhere between housing and Orientation. Who is going to pursue it?

AS: Our concern is not RBA as an advising system.

Actually the Student Committee on Educational Policy [is] looking at this as an advising system, and they are going to have a report on advising coming out later in the year. Our only concern with RBA [is] only its relation to the Residence Exploration period and its current restriction that you cannot participate in the housing adjustment lottery if you are placed into an RBA dorm over the summer housing lottery. ... By no means am I trying to overstep my authority and mess with the advising system as a whole. I know a lot of people work very hard at making that an effective advising system and we think that a lot of dissatisfaction comes from this one particular Orientation related restriction and that's what we're looking at.

TT: Where is the report available, and how many people responded?

AS: The report is available on the UA Web site. The freshmen survey was 104 respondents, about 10 percent of the freshmen class, comparable to SCEP's advising survey. The upperclassmen was 62 respondents, which is a little less than what we hoped for. It does cover all 11 dormitories and representatives from the fraternities, sororities, independent living groups, and off campus. The fact that it was all free response, we got a couple of responses saying "Why did you make this all free response? I hate you people."

The upperclassmen survey was done last, so between the Department of Housing survey which has hundreds of freshmen [responses] and our fresh-

Main Conclusions of the UA Report on Orientation

We asked UA Orientation Committee Chair Andrew P. Spann '07 to elaborate on the main conclusions in the Undergraduate Association Report on Orientation. The following are his responses.

¶ Place greater emphasis on student-generated content

Andrew Spann: There has been this tendency for everyone planning Orientation over the last few years to think of Orientation as a theater. ... Freshmen go into the theater and see one big performance after another. But one thing that we would like to look at is viewing Orientation as a modern video game, where emphasis is on nonlinear exploration and peer interaction.

¶ Allow freshmen in Residence Based Advising dorms to enter the Housing Readjustment Lottery

AS: There were a number of complaints about this in the Department of Housing survey. Particularly in Next House, not as much from McCormick [Hall], because in McCormick essentially you have everyone ... listed as their first choice. We had a lot of people who ranked Next House their third place choice — there were 62 freshmen who put Next House as their third place choice — got put in there, and did not have any opportunity at all to adjust, to change. We're not trying to guarantee that anyone who wants to get out of Next House can, but it's according to market demand. ... You don't have to move all 62 of those people who got their third place choice because obviously some dorm is going to get third place choice people. There were some people who also wanted to move into Next House and I think it's outright more efficient if we facilitate that transfer.

¶ Examine the implications of scheduling residence move-in day and freshmen registration day in proximity

AS: Right now both freshmen move day and freshmen reg day are both Thursday. There's plenty of time to do both there, that's not a problem at all, but both of those programs have prerequisite chains of events — you have all the REX related events and in-house rush related events before you can move in. You have advanced standing exams and the learning community events like the [Experimental Study Group] and Concourse open houses. Those need to be performed before freshmen can register. Even a few days in advance because you need to grade your math diagnostic and advanced standing exams before freshmen can even register. It can be said that there are a lot of the big heavy weighted decisions that all fall on the first day or two.

¶ Centralize and coordinate scheduling information for all Orientation events

AS: We had a decent number of comments saying that there was some really cool event that someone had heard about too late to attend it, be it either a REX event or a rush event. All the groups, Dormcon, IFC, Panhel, and UAAP post schedules, so an upperclassmen would know of course where to go, but as a freshmen you probably don't know all the relevant Web sites, and the UA should play a part in helping freshmen get access to all those schedules.

The full report can be read at <http://web.mit.edu/ua/www/committees/orientation/report06-full.pdf>.

men survey that is where the bulk of the recommendations come from. The UA upperclassmen survey was really just supplementing things what we already knew from the other two.

TT: So you just looked at this year's freshmen survey, or did you go back?

AS: The report does not cover last year's freshmen survey. I certainly have read last year's housing statistics but as far as trying to comment on changes that rise over many years, no. We mostly focus on looking at the free response comments on that because the Department of Housing already released a couple page cover sheet with the statistical results from the survey. What we're focusing on is what has not already been reported to administrators.

TT: Since there were so few responses, do you think the respondents were just people who were unhappy with Orientation — that maybe it's not very representative of the opinion of students?

AS: The upperclassmen survey could be argued to be more polarized. With the freshmen survey, the five dorms that we went to, we got decent cross sections out of. It's a bit unfortunate that this was the week of the first 8.01 exam. I know certainly for Next House this did hurt our turnout because it was the night before the exam. ... I had no idea until I showed up and people started telling me that there is a freshman physics exam that everyone was at office hours for.

TT: What is the plan now that the

report has been issued?

AS: We are going to be working with the UAAP and with SLOPE in the spring in setting the Orientation schedule. We're going to get one or two committee members on those boards.

TT: In the past, when you've had these committee members on these boards, how many changes have actually been instated?

AS: I don't have as long of an institutional memory of the old committee on housing and Orientation, my background is actually in the UA Senate. I was on the SLOPE committee last year, so I'm more familiar with how SLOPE works and the negotiating process on that. I am not as well versed on UA history.

TT: When you read the reports from last year and the year before, do you see any of these changes in the newer schedules?

Andrew Lukmann: This is the first time in the last few years that there actually has been a comprehensive report. There has not been a similar

document last year or the year before. That's part of the greater UA effort to get committees to actually write down their recommendations.

TT: How many people are on Orientation Committee?

AS: About a dozen.

TT: There seems to be a trend where people come to CPW and do what would normally be Orientation activities.

AS: That actually is mentioned in the report. We do not make any policy recommendations concerning that. We certainly note that, and we suggest that people keep that in mind and investigate the effects, whether they are positive or negative. We certainly don't want to pose any additional restrictions on CPW; we think it's managed very well. We think people should be aware of the fact that CPW is ... taking on some Residence Exploration aspects. It may be that people are not as satisfied with the amount of time they have during Residence Exploration. People are going to tell their prefrish that they should go and look around at dormito-

ries. In some respects, people should really be considering MIT as a whole, as whether you want to attend MIT or not. Getting a good feel of the dormitories can tell you a lot about MIT but if CPW becomes more import to REX than REX itself, then I think this does become a problem in the long term.

TT: What was the consensus on the T Party?

AS: When asked should an event be held like this next year in the freshmen survey, 86 percent said that it should be held again. We did have a decent number of comments in the upperclassmen survey from people who expressed concerns that interaction between the ASA pre-activities midway regulations and the Boston T Party did not pan out so well. We should certainly clarify how groups are allowed to communi-

cate to students at this event and how this interacts with current restrictions from taking student names or poster before the Activities Midway.

TT: Was there anything in the report or survey responses that sur-

prised you?

AS: There was one thing that surprised me. ... In the summer housing lottery, if you look at the pick that people got, whether they got their first second or third choice in the summer housing lottery versus whether they were likely to request a readjustment in the housing adjustment lottery, you have about 11 or 12 percent of people who got their first place choice asking for readjustment in that. [Of] the people who got their second place choice, about 30 percent of people [asked] for readjustment. [Of] the people who got their third place choice we only got about 7 or 8 percent asking for readjustment, because out of the people who got their third place choice only 13 of these 75 people were put in a non-RBA environment. So out of the people who were eligible to move in their third place choice, 38 percent of those people moved, or requested to move. It's interesting if you just look at it that way, the curve appears to bend backwards when there really is a rational explanation for it if you dig a little deeper.



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--Bahá'u'lláh

MIT Bahá'í Association

Undergraduate Association Goals, Fall 2006

This is the mid-semester update for the Undergraduate Association’s Fall 2006 goals. *The Tech* will evaluate the success of the committees at the end of the semester. * Goals were either modified or added since the first publication of the UA goals on Sept. 19, 2006

UA Committee	Goals for Fall 2006	Progress
Executive Committee	Construct a new Web site with interactive features (votes, polls, and forums) to help the UA to better gauge student opinions.	A student Web designer has been found, and a skeletal Web site (http://scripts.mit.edu/~ua/drupal) is already running that has the capability to host votes, polls, and forums, but additional features and pages are needed before it formally goes online.
	Create <i>undergrads-inform@mit.edu</i> , an optional list for all undergraduates to disseminate information regarding pressing campus issues that could have an effect on student life.	The committee has spoken to Information, Services & Technology and discovered technical hurdles to establishing an undergrads list permitting unsubscriptions. Efforts are continuing.
	Work more closely with Institute and faculty committee representatives to ensure that the UA has the pulse of the faculty and the administration.	A forum with all committee representatives will be held in late November followed by a banquet in early December for all committee representatives and faculty committee chairmen.
	Increase the level of competition for Senate seats and improving voter turnout for all UA elections.	Voter turnout actually decreased compared to last fall: 1,160 votes decreased to 1,083.
	Cultivate a stronger relationship with campus media outlets, including weekly or bi-weekly UA Q&A interviews.	<i>The Tech</i> and the UA have produced weekly Q&As as well as this mid-term goals checklist.
	Focus resource development efforts on finding sponsors for undergraduate student groups and activities.	A number of companies have been contacted, but no plans have been finalized. Care is being taken to push this in an amenable and unobtrusive direction.
	* Evaluate the MIT Cable offerings and recommend changes as necessary.	Discovery Channel has already replaced MIT Weather When You Want It. Comedy Central, Sci-Fi, and MTV are scheduled to replace Bloomberg, C-SPAN2, and mtvU in January 2007.
Committee on Athletics	Examine Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation managerial infrastructure to seek ways of improving its operation efficiency and cost effectiveness.	Since 2001, DAPER has outsourced the management of its facility to Health Fitness Corporation, a provider of fitness management service with more than 400 fitness centers across North America. The committee is preparing to submit a report before the end of the term on the status of HFC’s operations, its relationship with DAPER, and its current role within the MIT community six years since it began its service.
	Organize sports tournaments to foster and increase student participation in athletics on campus.	The committee is contacting various club basketball teams from other colleges in Massachusetts to invite them to MIT for a basketball tournament. The committee hopes to hold the event during the Independent Activities Period..
	* Implement student input and suggestions regarding DAPER operations and facilities.	The committee is currently working with the UA Executive Committee to assess the proposal to slightly increase the Student Life Fee so that DAPER will have more money to provide better services, facilities, and programs for the MIT community.
Committee on Campus Sustainability	Establish MIT as a global leader in the realm of sustainability by drawing from all schools and departments.	Establish a self-sustaining grant with 20 \$25,000 amounts for release in Spring 2007.
	Create a proposal for a built environment which generates energy, processes waste, demonstrates new innovative building technologies, supports a vibrant learning community, and lays down a path for structure retrofit.	Complete design of three CAD models, one of the new graduate dormitory, one of the proposed Energy Research Council center, and one of a radical think-and-do tank to demonstrate prototype technologies. Beginning audit of all buildings on campus, and putting green roofs on at least one building by Summer 2007.
	Investigate how MIT uses capital on campus, and evaluate how financing for sustainability initiatives might best be located, locked in, and used effectively.	Beginning relationship with MIT endowment office to investigate how the endowment is invested and whether on-campus rates of return might be high enough to justify local investment.
	Investigate and report on MIT’s ecology and use of consumables for community and research use.	Establishing protocol for a 90 percent decrease in energy and materials for research and a 25 percent reduction in cost for community consumables.
	Work to make the average MIT undergraduate a more aware, compassionate and wise global citizen.	This is met by the self-sustaining grant mentioned above.
Committee on Dining	Work with Campus Dining to promote a student survey to help fill the remaining storefronts in Lobdell Food Court.	The survey went out and was well received.
	Continue to work to improve late-night dining options on campus.	When Subway opens, it will stay open until 11 p.m. weeknights. More work remains to be done regarding dormitory dining hours.
	Organize a joint event with the Graduate Student Council to publicize the diversity of dining options on campus.	Tentative discussions have taken place with the Graduate Student Council and Dining for an event to take place early next semester after the opening of Subway and Au Bon Pain.
	Continue to explore increased breakfast options on campus.	The success of Jamba Juice in the Dining Survey is a step in the right direction but more work remains to be done.
Student Committee on Educational Policy	Draft an advisory report compiling undergraduate feedback regarding the recommendations of the Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons.	The committee is working with the Student Advisory Committee on the recommendations of the Task Force. After a town hall meeting a few weeks ago was held to collect student feedback, an online survey was just released to collect more quantitative data. The current plan is to write a student report over IAP.
	Work with the faculty to increase awareness of term regulations and resolve violations.	The committee has been in contact with faculty over violations received through the SCEP Web site (http://web.mit.edu/ua/www/committees/scep/termregs/report-violation.shtml), and all of them have been resolved.
	Work with faculty and administrators to demonstrably improve undergraduate advising.	The committee has incorporated feedback received from faculty on a brochure the committee created titled “How to Get Advice.” It will serve as a resource for all students on how to make the most of their advisors. The brochure is going to be printed by the end of the term so that it can be distributed at the beginning of the spring term.
	Create a “Guide to Educational Policy at MIT” for incoming freshmen.	The committee has compiled information for the brochure, including term regulations, reporting violations, and educational resources. The brochure is currently being laid out and the plan is to print it by the end of the term so that it can be distributed at the beginning of the spring term.
Committee on Housing	Ensure significant student input and involvement in the transition of Ashdown House to an undergraduate dormitory.	The committee is currently looking for speakers for an Ashdown forum. Interested parties should e-mail ua-housing@mit.edu .
	Provide for student involvement in the decision-making process regarding undergraduate dormitory renovations and “swing” housing.	The issue is currently under consideration by the committee. A rough version of the committee’s position will be included in the committee’s December report.
	Investigate the needs and the future of cultural houses at MIT and how they integrate with other elements of the housing system.	The committee is debating upon the Review on Cultural Houses unveiled by the Housing Strategy Group in November and will present its opinions in December.
	Publish reports regarding the committee’s opinion on important housing issues at least twice a term.	Input-a-palooza! housing survey is being used as a diagnostic tool and raw data for the committee’s report. The first draft of the report will be out in December, and the full report will be completed sometime in the spring.
	Investigate the practicability of returning full telephone service to dormitories.	The issue was included in the Input-a-palooza! survey and will be addressed in accordance with what the majority seem to prefer.
Committee on Orientation	Work with the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming and Student Life Orientation Planning committees to better showcase undergraduate student activities to incoming freshmen.	The meetings to plan the Orientation schedule for next term have not begun yet. The committee will send a member to the preliminary fall meetings and also to the SLOPE Orientation planning committee. In the meantime, the committee has compiled a report on Orientation documenting important student issues.
	Work to make the UA-supported Tuesday Night State Center “T-Party” a recurring event, clarifying how the Association of Student Activities restrictions on advertising apply to this event.	Committee member Erik D. Fogg ’09 has volunteered to lead this effort. The UA Report on Orientation has sections dealing with the importance of student groups.
	Investigate the rescheduling of the Mathematics Diagnostic Test to Orientation Week; if necessary, work to reschedule the exam to a more amenable time slot.	The committee has spoken to Physics Professor Thomas J. Greytak who explained that a significant difference was observed between the test’s score distributions on years when the test was taken by mail over the summer and years when the test was taken during Orientation. The Physics Department has said it is interested in working to schedule the test at an amenable time during Orientation but has said that the exam will probably not revert to its former summer mailing.
	Work to support the Virtual CPW project to help admitted students get a better idea of the strength of MIT student life even if they are unable to attend Campus Preview Weekend.	Committee member Valery K. Brobbey ’08 (also a <i>Tech</i> staff reporter), who worked on Virtual CPW last year, is leading the effort again this year. Getting Virtual CPW recognized as a student group is currently under consideration.
	Perform annual post-Orientation feedback sessions to identify the best and worst elements of the orientation experience from the freshmen who went through it.	The committee conducted a freshman survey visitng five dormitories from Oct. 9–12. The following week an online upperclassmen survey was conducted. Results were tabulated and, together with statistics from the Department of Housing’s earlier surveys, a UA Report on Orientation was written. The report was approved at the most recent UA Senate meeting.
Committee on Student Life	Promote, staff, and administer the new Undergraduate Mentorship Program.	The Undergraduate Mentorship Program is underway as planned. The committee is getting feedback from the mentor pairs and is handling problems that arise.
	Investigate and draft a report in response to student complaints regarding MIT Medical quality of service.	The committee is currently gathering data through multiple surveys and drafting a report that will be available by the end of the semester.
Committee on Student Space Planning	Conduct an inventory of existing student spaces on campus, analyze their strengths and deficiencies, and present this information on the committee Web site.	The committee will be doing most of the legwork in building this inventory during November and will launch the Web site in December.
	Invite feedback from the student body on the need for new spaces or improvements that can be made to existing spaces utilizing surveys, public meetings, and Web forums.	The committee polled the student body on the future of the Student Center game room and proposals for Student Center expansion in the DormStorm survey. These projects will be brought to the UA Senate for review.
	Develop a vision for the long-term future of the campus, and build relationships with the MIT Department of Facilities, the administration, and other key players in forming the new campus.	The committee has met with Philip J. Walsh, director of the Campus Activities Complex, to discuss upcoming projects that relate to student activity space and will be helping to select artwork to place in the Building 10 Community Lounge and the Student Center’s fifth floor Reading Room.
	Produce an official report of all the above findings for public access.	This will be available at the end of spring term and will review all of the committee’s activities from the year.
Finance Board	Improve communication between groups and liaisons (including regular Finboard Office Hours).	Office hours were held last week. http://web.mit.edu/finboard/www .
	Improve overall allocation usage by better leveraging past data and spending trends.	FinBoard is incorporating previous spending trends on allocations, which has helped identify underspenders and has reduced publicity and printing allocations.
	Provide for a longer institutional memory span by making previous usage statistics more accessible.	A new liaison page for future FinBoard members has been added. Members can have access to information we post for internal use.
	Investigate the creation of a capital start-up fund for new groups.	Applications are currently out and are due Nov. 22. They will be addressed IAP and Spring 2007 allocations.
Nominations Committee	Improve communication with advocates so that, if there is a problem, the committee is always in the know.	Starting in December, regular forums will be held to improve communication with advocates. Blog updates will also keep advocates informed.
	Train student advocates and utilize an improved Web site to track issues being discussed among the various Institute and faculty committees.	A blog that is part of the new UA Web site has been set up that will be coming online soon before the rest of the site does.
	Throw an advocate banquet to increase communication between faculty and advocates.	The banquet will be held Dec. 1.

No Date Yet Set For Expected Decision on Sudan Divestment

Sudan, from Page 1

Brandeis University sophomore Daniel Millenson, president and national advocacy director of the task force, explained that the targeted model “only goes after the worst offenders.” This means that of the approximately 400 companies with ties to Sudan, about two dozen are on the worst offenders list. These worst offenders are those companies that have business relations with the Sudanese government or with government related projects, provide minimum benefit to people outside government circles, and do not have a substantial corporate governance policy.

Millenson said that he has e-mailed the ACSR twice offering the Sudan Divestment Task Force as a resource and to provide company research but has not received a reply.

ACSR Chair Alan G. Spoon said that the committee is taking note of all approaches and that their decision process is deliberate, thoughtful, and careful. Members have done extensive reading and have surveyed the kinds of approaches that other university and financial institutions are taking or have taken.

He would not pinpoint a date when a decision could be expected, saying that a decision could not be rushed because “we’re going to do it right.”

Spoon declined to divulge how much money MIT has invested in Sudan.

Michael Baenen, staff to the committee, said that although a date has not been set for the ACSR’s next meeting, the members are hoping to meet one more time before the winter holidays.

All of the Ivy League schools have done either general divestment or have placed restriction on future investments. Other Massachusetts schools, including Brandeis, Williams, Smith, Boston University, and Amherst have all done divestment of some sort.

Wellesley College, like MIT, has an active campaign on campus to divest.

Lecture Draws Debate

As part of his campaign for divestment, Zainabadi has arranged for Eric Reeves, a professor at Smith College, to speak on Nov. 30. Flyers for the event, “‘A Long Day’s Dying: Genocide by Attrition in Sudan,’” advertise Reeves as a “‘professor-turned-activist.’”

Zainabadi approached both the GSC and the Undergraduate Association for a \$1,000 honorarium — \$500 from each governing body — to “be donated to charitable organization

“If we’re serious about helping people, why not take an active role in making things happen?”
— Mustafa G. Dafalla

working in Sudan for humanitarian relief.” Reeves requested this honorarium.

In addition, Zainabadi is attempting to gain UA and GSC sponsorship of the petition.

It is possible that one resolution could pass and the other could fail, or vice versa, Weese said. The GSC Executive Committee will vote on the request for \$500.

The UA decided to table a decision on the divestment resolution, Zainabadi said. UA Senators felt that more information was needed and that it wouldn’t be fair to vote on the resolution without gathering constituent opinion, he said.

The original resolution to provide \$500 for the Reeves speech was enacted as a bill to appropriate \$1,000 for an “honorarium for speakers to publicly discuss the conflict and is-

sues surrounding MIT’s divestiture from Sudan.”

This bill sprung from a debate brought up by Mustafa G. Dafalla ’09, who is originally from Sudan and has visited the country several times. He argues that divestment does not work toward a solution. “If MIT is about divestiture and not about initiatives, how can we honestly say we are part of the solution?” he asked.

Dafalla also said that Sudan’s capital, Khartoum, is often cited in the media as a developed, modern city. He said that he found during a visit this summer that many homes lack indoor plumbing or much of what city dwellers in America count as necessities.

A more viable alternative than divestment, he said, is for MIT to begin an initiative to work toward building infrastructure in Sudan so that necessities can be delivered to everyone in the country. “If we’re serious about helping people, why not take an active role in making things happen?”

The UA bill provides for a speaker to present another view alongside Reeves at the Nov. 30 event. Dafalla said that he has approached some faculty members, but finds that there is a dichotomy over divestment from Sudan. Dafalla said that he “in no way support[s] the government’s indiscriminate attacks against innocent civilians.” Still, he said, it seems that the popular message seems to be that you either support divestment or you support killing babies.

One faculty member Dafalla has approached expressed extreme reserve about speaking on his/her opposition to the divestment, he said, because it is difficult to go on the record as an opposer of divestment.

Zainabadi said that Dafalla’s opposition to his view has caused “much more good than bad,” since it opened a lively debate.

The petition can be found and signed online at <http://www.petition-online.com/divest/petition.html>.

Five MIT Teams Place In Top Ten; Xbox 360 Presented to Winners

Puzzles, from Page 1

has been open to MIT students and the third year since its inception. The puzzles have a common theme each year, and this year’s theme consisted of teaming up with an international organization, S.O.L.V.E., to explore the secrets of a mysterious island, according to the College Puzzle Challenge Web site.

“I thought it was a good twelve-hour span of fun,” said Pete S. Kruskall ’08, a participant in the expedition. “It’s kind of like a fun social event to hang with friends and solve crazy puzzles,” he added.

Teams from MIT dominated the competition, with five MIT teams in the top 10. Each of the members of the grand prize winning team, MIT’s Quarks and Gluons, will receive a Microsoft Xbox 360. Quarks and Gluons was one of two teams that was able to solve every puzzle correctly and, in fact, completed the challenge nearly two hours ahead of the other team.

“We came in third place last year, and we were really determined to beat our friends [also from MIT] who came in second,” said Adam P. Rosenfield ’08, a member of the winning team, “Plus, we just love puzzles.”

Other participants seemed to feel a sense of lighthearted peer rivalry, in addition to a love for puzzling. Kruskall, whose team, You Know, placed fifth overall in the competition, mentioned a “girls versus boys” rivalry with another MIT team in which his team, the boys, “came out on top.”

The competition lasted for 12 hours, from noon to midnight. Initially, all MIT teams were gathered in one room to solve three preliminary puzzles that were “fun for everyone,” said Iolanthe K. Chronis ’08, another

member of Quarks and Gluons. After completion of the first puzzles, each team received a booklet of additional puzzles to be solved in a preferred campus location. Kruskall described the atmosphere as relaxed, but “rush, rush, rush, see how fast you can solve” at times during competition time. Rosenfield said Quarks and Gluons was bummed during the first round, but solved nine puzzles in a little more than an hour during the second round.

“It’s safe to say they’re all very different,” Kruskall said of the puzzles.

For Quarks and Gluons, Chronis said that one puzzle required half the contest to solve, which was six hours, while others could be solved in a matter of minutes. The variety ranged from cryptograms to crossword puzzles, according to Rosenfield.

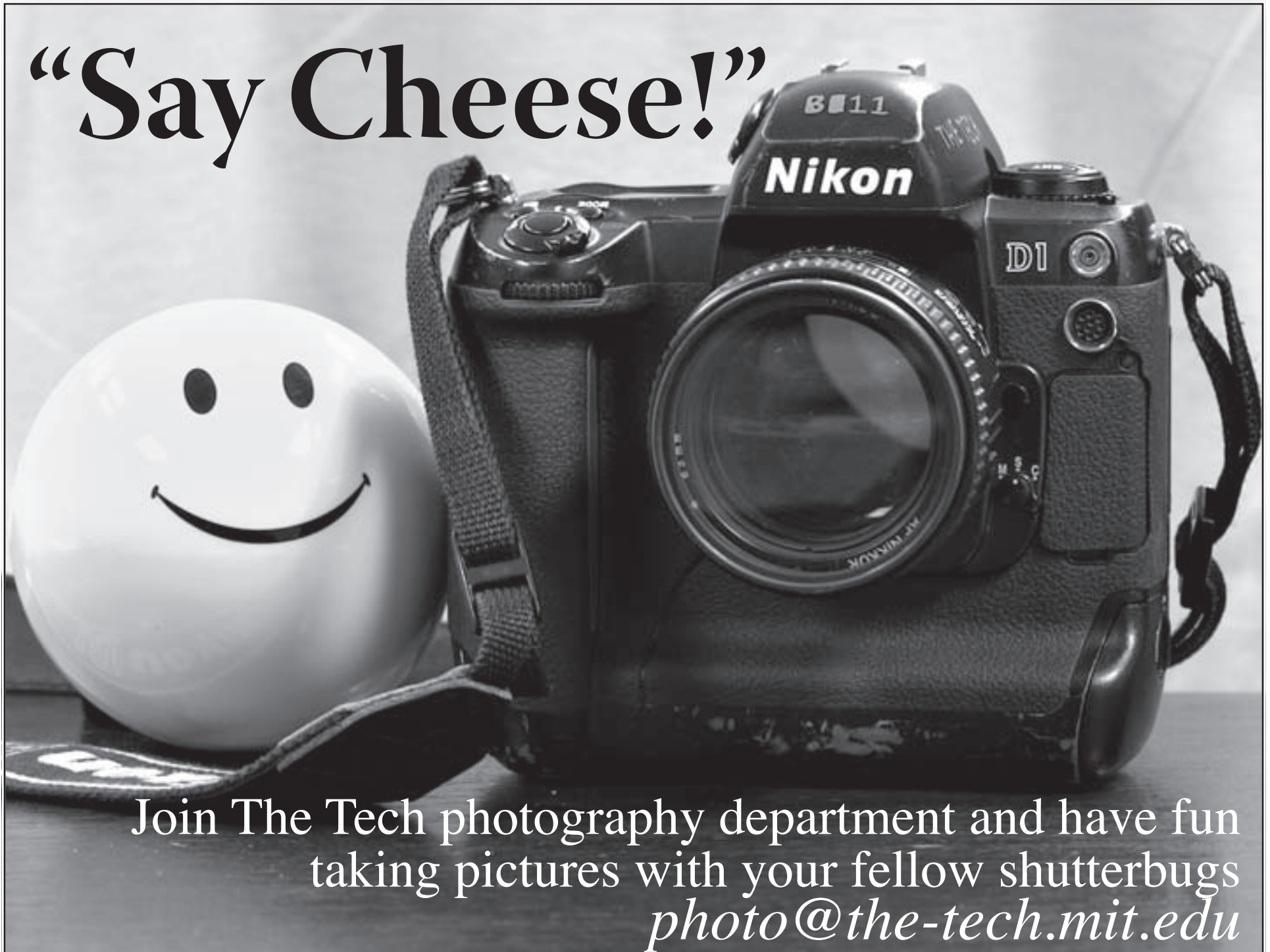
The Challenge is in the spirit of MIT’s annual Mystery Hunt held during the Independent Activities Period, which may have given teams from MIT an edge.

“Most of [the puzzles] were like standard MIT Mystery Hunt puzzles but easier,” Chronis said.

Both Kruskall and Rosenfield mentioned the Mystery Hunt as a leading factor in their involvement in competitive puzzling. Even Andrew S. Crane ’02, author of eight of the 30 puzzles, cited the Mystery Hunt as a driving force in his involvement in competitive puzzling.

When asked how they prepared for the competition, both Chronis and Rosenfield mentioned that no formal preparation took place. Instead, preparation evolved through years of interest in solving puzzles. For Kruskall, the Microsoft Challenge served as practice for the MIT Mystery Hunt.

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Student Life Fee May Increase Due to Buying Power ‘Erosion’

Student Life Fee, from Page 1

have effective control over the Fee.” Additionally, the resolution states the problem that graduate students often have to pay the fee from their post-tax earnings.

The five issues included in the UA and GSC joint resolution that “must be addressed” before any changes are made, according to the resolution, deal with the ability of students to control the level of the fee, tax implications for graduate students, financial aid implications for undergraduate students, transparency of the fee disbursement structure, and whether student activity funding should be paired with athletics funding.

Benedict added that the increased fee would be considered in setting financial aid levels so needy students would have all or some of the fee covered.

UA President Andrew T. Lukmann ’07 said that he and GSC President Eric G. Weese G, authors of the resolution, both realized “there were a number of things that needed to be dealt with before we felt com-

fortable endorsing an increase.”

The UA Senate proposal stated that the fee should be separated into a Student Activities Fee, regulated by the UA and GSC for funding of student activities and social events, and a Facilities Fee, set by the Dean of Student Life for funding operations for the Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation.

Though how much of the Fee goes toward student activities and how much goes toward facilities is still a source of debate since the budget is not clearly divided, the general consensus is that greater than the majority goes toward facilities, Lukmann said.

Portions of the Student Life Fee go to the Student Activities Office, the Graduate Students Office, and DAPER. About \$400,000 of the fee goes to the Student Activities Office. According to Dean for Graduate Students Isaac M. Colbert, \$225,000 is allocated to the Graduate Students Office. The rest is allocated to DAPER, Benedict said.

Since the Student Life Fee was instated four years ago, “inflation has

eroded the buying power of the fee monies” and “more student groups and organizations are seeking more funds to support their activities and efforts,” Benedict said. While Benedict considers this “good news” as an indicator of student involvement, it does mean that current Student Life funds are insufficient.

Stephen D. Immerman, the interim head of DAPER, agreed, adding that “we’ve seen more demand and more student involvement over the past four years.”

No final decision has been made regarding an increase to the Student Life Fee. The Dean of Student Life’s office is still awaiting data from the UA, the GSC, the Association for Student Activities, and DAPER.

According to Weese, one common complaint graduate students have about the Student Life Fee is that they often pay MIT with their taxed stipend money. Benedict says he is aware of this issue and is considering options.

The Student Life Fee was originally instated four years ago, as part of a tuition increase for the 2002-2003 school year.

Three Simultaneous Fire Alarms Pulled; Cambridge May Fine MIT

Fire Alarms, from Page 1

simultaneous alarms from MIT dormitories sound suspicious, “the fire department always takes alarms seriously,” because steam, dust, and smoke can “trip fire alarms.”

Collins said that the activation of three alarms at once presented a problem for the fire department because “they had to dispatch trucks from all over the city.”

According to Collins, it is “very possible they will fine us.”

Carlson said that he does not know if MIT will be fined, but the fire department may be frustrated, since they take their work seriously.

According to a police report from Carlson, the Simmons alarm was triggered from the third floor stairwell at 1:17 a.m., while the Burton-Conner alarm was triggered from the first floor at 1:20 a.m. The location of the Baker alarm, triggered at 1:18 a.m., was not included in the police report.

Carlson said that the police department does not intend to “go around telling people not to pull fire alarms.” “At this stage in life everyone knows not to pull fire alarms,” he said. Carlson added that such pranks only hurt the residents of the dormitory.

Carlson counts on the vigilance of dormitory residents to prevent another occurrence of this incident. “The best eyes are people in the houses,” said Carlson. He said that he would urge dormitory residents to “give us a call if something is out of place.”

At the time the fire alarms went off, residents were busily completing homework and studying for tests on Friday. “I was studying for my 6.004 exam,” said Jules D. Walter ’08, resident of Baker House, who described the incident as an “inappropriate joke.” “We had to stay outside for at least half an hour.”

Adelaide S. Calbry-Muzyka ’09, a resident of Burton Conner House who was working on a problem set, called the prank “obnoxious” and mentioned that the fire alarm was pulled when it was raining. Calbry-Muzyka said that one of her friends was sick and asleep at the time the alarm went off.

David A. Nedzel ’07, Dormitory

Council president and resident of Simmons Hall, described the incident as a “serious safety issue.” “It’s unfortunate people do that,” Nedzel added. Nedzel said he and some of his friends went to Westgate Apartments to seek shelter from the rain and “noticed some other people walking across the parking lot to Next House.”

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Solution to Sudoku

from page 7

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Madden Enjoyed Fishing, Cape Cod Seashore

Madden, from Page 1

to the mother ship.

Later, at Draper Laboratory, he performed early research on GPS systems. One of his last projects was for the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) system, designed to detect gravity waves from distant supernovas, yielding clues to the fundamental structure of the universe.

Born in Newton, Mass., on June 8, 1936, Madden earned his B.S., M.S., and PhD degrees in mathematics, all from MIT. He spent his entire 52-year professional career at MIT and its affiliated institutes.

Madden, who lived in Lexington and Provincetown, enjoyed fishing on the beaches of Cape Cod National Seashore and loved classical music, gardening and chemistry.

Madden is survived by his wife, Nancy Widmer Madden; a son, Dean Madden of Hanover, NH; a daughter, Elizabeth Madden Mirabile of Newton; two brothers, Robert H. Madden of Newton and John R. Madden of Duxbury; and five grandchildren.

A memorial service is planned for June 9, 2007 at the Auburndale Cove in Newton.

Solution to Crossword

from page 7

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JONGU SHIN—THE TECH

Daniel Jang '10 shoots in the Air Pistol division during the Intercollegiate Pistol Match against West Point on Friday, Nov. 17 and Saturday, Nov. 18. MIT won the Air Pistol division 2205-2182. MIT Men's Pistol tied 6221-6221 while MIT Women's Pistol won 2679-2635.

MIT Faces Cornell in All Three Division Finals of TKD Tourney

Taekwondo, from Page 20

fore the tournament they continued to lead against new opponents.

Ning Wu G took first and Otoniel Tabares '09 followed closely with third place in the men's green belt division. Jaclyn J. Ho '09 tied for first in the women's green belt division and, in an exciting turn of events, performed her form a second time. After seeing her exceptional strength and agility, the judges awarded her first place.

Also in that division was EunMee Yang '07, who placed third. In another challenging division, Elisabeth M. Markham '09 and Miranda J. Ha '07 place first and second respectively among women's white and yellow belts.

The sparring competitions that followed provided a different challenge. In individual women's black belt sparring, JiHye Kim '10 breezed through several matches to place first in her division.

In the advanced (A team) sparring division, Women's A1 (Chan, Chen, Sharon A. Lawrence '07, and Ziyang Chu '07) easily advanced to the finals, where Chan came from behind to even out the score against a tough Cornell competitor but the rest of the team couldn't prevail, leading to a second place overall finish.

Up next were the beginner's (D

team) sparring divisions, which gave the upper belts a chance to rest and cheer on their new teammates. Newcomer Stephanie C. Chan '09, the lone competitor in Women's D1, made her way to the top of her bracket and in a new team record, won her match 10-0 in only 26 seconds. Despite starting the sport of Taekwondo a mere eight weeks ago, she placed first in her division.

In the novice (C team) divisions, both men's and women's teams fought in excellent matches against MIT's rival school, Cornell. Women's C1 (Ha, Yang, Markham) made it to the finals and came in second to the more experienced Cornell Women's C1. Ha fought beautifully using advanced tactics to win her match 10-0.

Last came the intermediate (B team) division. In the semifinals, Women's B2 (Jennifer L. Caplin '07, Lee, Hui) fought Michigan B1. In a classic MIT move, Caplin won her round with a score of 8-4 after being down 2-3 after the first half. Hui scored on her opponent several times using her signature inside turning kick but lost the round in a close fight to a more experienced competitor. Women's B2 placed third in this tough division.

On the other side of the bracket, Women's B1 (Chen, Lawrence, Chu) advanced with two victories into the finals to fight the same Michigan B1

team. This time, the MIT team was relentless. Chen easily beat her opponent 12-7, while Lawrence lost 4-5. After being down 4-6 in the first half, Chu came back into the ring with the advice of coach Conor F. Madigan G, scoring a head shot on her opponent in the last seconds of the round and winning 15-14, which gave the Women's B1 team a first finish in their division.

The Men's B1 (Wu, Chambers, Han) team advanced match after match under the guidance of their coach Master Daniel B. Chuang in one of the most difficult divisions of the tournament, meeting rivals Cornell B1 in the finals.

Wu lost in a close round 9-10. Han fought with his usual cool grace, scoring on his opponent with several beautiful double kicks, but couldn't overcome his weight disadvantage, so that the Men's B1 placed second in their division.

The next INCTL meet is in Feb. 2007 at New York University.

Engineers Lose Finals, Despite Assists Record

Basketball, from Page 20

lishing a 60-38 lead with 4:34 left to play. Behind a pair of three-pointers and free throws from Alice S. Yeh '09, MIT (1-1) closed the game with an 11-2 run during the final three minutes to make the final score 62-49.

With 10 assists, Soo Hoo tied the MIT record for assists in a game for the second time in her career. She previously equaled the Institute mark in last year's MIT Tip-Off Tournament against St. Joseph's College of Maine.

Margossian recorded her second consecutive double-double with a team-high 13 points and 11 rebounds, leading to an all-tournament team selection. In eight minutes of action off the bench, Yeh tallied 11 points on 3-of-3 shooting from behind the arc and a pair of shots from the charity stripe.

Steven's Dora Enright, the tournament MVP, posted her second double-double of the weekend as she led all scorers with 21 points on 10-of-15 shooting from the floor and added 12 rebounds.

Brenman Scores in Third To Make Final Score 5-1

Hockey, from Page 20

Saint Michael's advantage to 3-0 with an unassisted tally almost 10 minutes later. Gagne recorded the final goal of the frame off Sweezy and School assists with five seconds left.

MIT ended the shutout on a power-play goal midway through the final period. Mary P. Harding '07 and Hunter found Brenman for her second

power-play goal of the year. St. Michael's Shannon Murphy capped the scoring with a four-on-five unassisted short-handed goal at the 14:56 mark.

In net, Prus collected 40 saves for the Engineers while Kristen Salierno made 31 stops in her second win of the season.

MIT's next game will be tonight, when it hosts Salve Regina University at 7:00 p.m.


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SPORTS

MIT Wins Semis on Seven Treys by Yuan, Falls in Finals 62-49

By Mindy Brauer
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

Behind an Institute-record seven three-pointers by Clara J. Yuan '09, MIT powered to a 72-35 victory over



Eastern Nazarene College in the opening game of the MIT women's basketball Tip-Off Tournament on Friday.

MIT (1-0) tallied eight unanswered points during the first four minutes before Rebecca Welch put Eastern Nazarene on the board with a trey. It was a close as it would get for the Crusaders as the Engineers outscored them, 32-8, for a 40-11 lead at the intermission.

The Engineers continued to cruise in the second stanza as they extended their advantage to 39 points (56-17) with 13:12 left to play. At the 5:44 mark, Yuan connected on her seventh three-pointer of the night, breaking the MIT record for three-pointers in a career with 63. The sophomore guard, who entered the season with a total of 56 buckets from behind the arc, finished the night with 25 points.

Christa M. Margossian '07 collected a game-high 21 rebounds and added 17 points on 11 of 13, shooting from the charity stripe. Sharon M. Prange '07 and Michal A. Ruchels-

man '07 each posted eight boards while Prange contributed 14 points. Kimberly E. Soo Hoo '08 dished out a game-high nine assists for the Engineers.

Jessica Schoppee paced the Crusaders with 11 points while Rebecca Welch contributed nine points and six steals. Cristina Winchester grabbed a team-high nine caroms as Nicole Culbert totaled eight boards, including six off the offensive glass.

Championship Loss to Stevens

MIT fell to Stevens Institute of Technology, 62-49, in the championship game of the MIT women's basketball Tip-Off Tournament on Saturday.

Stevens (2-0) opened the championship game with eight unanswered points to take the lead for good. MIT (1-1) was able to narrow the margin to three on two occasions, the last time occurring on Margossian's three-point play (17-14) with 8:28 remaining in the first half. The Ducks were able to maintain their narrow margin as they entered the intermission with a 28-21 advantage.

Stevens carried the momentum into the second half, eventually estab-

Basketball, Page 19

Sport TKD Finishes 2nd Behind Cornell 541-460

Tufts in 3rd with 200, MIT Maintains INCTL Lead

By Ziyang Chu
TEAM MEMBER

Only three weeks after hosting the first tournament of the 2006-2007 Ivy Northeast Collegiate Taekwondo (INCTL) season, MIT sport taekwon-



do sent 36 competitors to Cornell University this past weekend in an exhausting yet thrilling tournament, placing second among fifteen

teams with 460 points. Among the schools represented were Harvard University, Columbia University, Tufts University, and a newcomer to the league, University of Michigan. Cornell won with 541 points, but MIT still holds the lead for the season with 1008 points to Cornell's 918.

MIT began the day with high scores in the poomse (forms) compe-

tition. In this portion of the tournament, athletes are able to demonstrate the more artistic side of taekwondo in a choreographed sequence of blocks, punches, and kicks.

Erica Y. Chan '07 placed third in the highly competitive women's black belt division.

With an amazing display of power and flexibility, both Richard-Duane S. Chambers G and Rene R. Chen '07 placed first in their respective men's and women's red belt divisions.

In the blue belt division, Christopher J. Han '09 took first in the men's competition while Christine M. Lee '09 and Corinna Hui '09 earned first and third respectively in the women's. All three competitors had consistently placed as green belts, and after earning blue belts only two weeks be-

Taekwondo, Page 19



DIANE K. RAK—THE TECH

MIT's men's lightweight crew team competes in the Foot of the Charles this past Saturday morning, Nov. 18, on a course from MIT to Harvard. MIT varsity placed 17th after Harvard and the freshmen division placed 10th after Northeastern.

Women's Hockey Storms Castleton, Can't Vanquish the Purple Knights

By Mindy Brauer
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

The MIT women's ice hockey team won its first game of the 2006-07 season Friday, defeating Castleton State College 4-2 in Eastern College Athletic Conference East action. The victory lifted the Engineers' record to 1-3-0 overall and 1-2-0 in conference play while the Spartans fell to 1-3-0 on the year and 0-3-0 in the ECAC East.

Maryanne Diehm put the Spartans on the scoreboard 12:29 into the game when she connected on a feed from Colleen Senecal. MIT evened the contest 2:30 later on a five-on-four power-play goal by Amanda P. Hunter '07, set up by Catherine G. Harding '09. The 1-1 tie would hold through the first intermission.

Stephanie V. Brenman '09 gave the Engineers their first lead of the night by converting another power-play goal off a pass from Hunter in the ninth minute. The game would remain scoreless until the Spartans tallied their lone power-play goal at the 12:25 mark of the final period. Adrianna Riggio and Nicole Adams found Katelyn Greene for her second goal of the season to make the score 2-2.

Less than six minutes later, MIT's Catherine Harding answered with a five-on-four power-play goal that

was set up by Hunter. Cristina F. Stefanescu '08 closed the scoring with an empty net goal with 13 seconds remaining.

In net, Maria N. Prus '10 earned the first win of her career while collecting 23 saves. Vanessa Carter made 61 stops for Castleton State.

Saturday Loss to St. Michael's

A trio of second period goals helped propel Saint Michael's College to a 5-1 win over MIT in an ECAC East women's ice hockey game on Saturday.

Amy Schoon tallied three assists

for the Purple Knights (3-2-0, 1-2-0 ECAC East) while Brenman scored the only goal for the Engineers (1-4-0, 1-3-0 ECAC East).

Saint Michael's opened the scoring with 1:30 remaining in the first period. Meghan Sweezey gave the Purple Knights the lead after connecting on passes from Molly DiMasi and Schoon.

In the second period, Schoon and Melissa Gagne set up Kelly Adams for the game-winning goal after 3:53 had expired. Kristina Reardon extended

Hockey, Page 19



GHEORGHE CHISTOL—THE TECH

Sabrist Yuhsin Chen '09 (right) parries a Boston University opponent at the Northeast Fencing Conference meet in Johnson Athletic Center on Sunday, Nov. 19. MIT finished 1st.



AARON L. SAMPSON—THE TECH

Matthew E. Spencer '07 swims through his final lap during the MIT swimming and diving team's meet last Saturday against Babson College and Bowdoin College. MIT triumphed 210-62 over Babson and 154-133 over Bowdoin.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2006

Women's Basketball vs. Anna Maria
Women's Hockey vs. Salve Regina

7:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage
7:00 p.m., Johnson Ice Rink